

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



10

story: ISAO MIURA
art: KOTARO YAMADA



The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶 **10**
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Volume 10

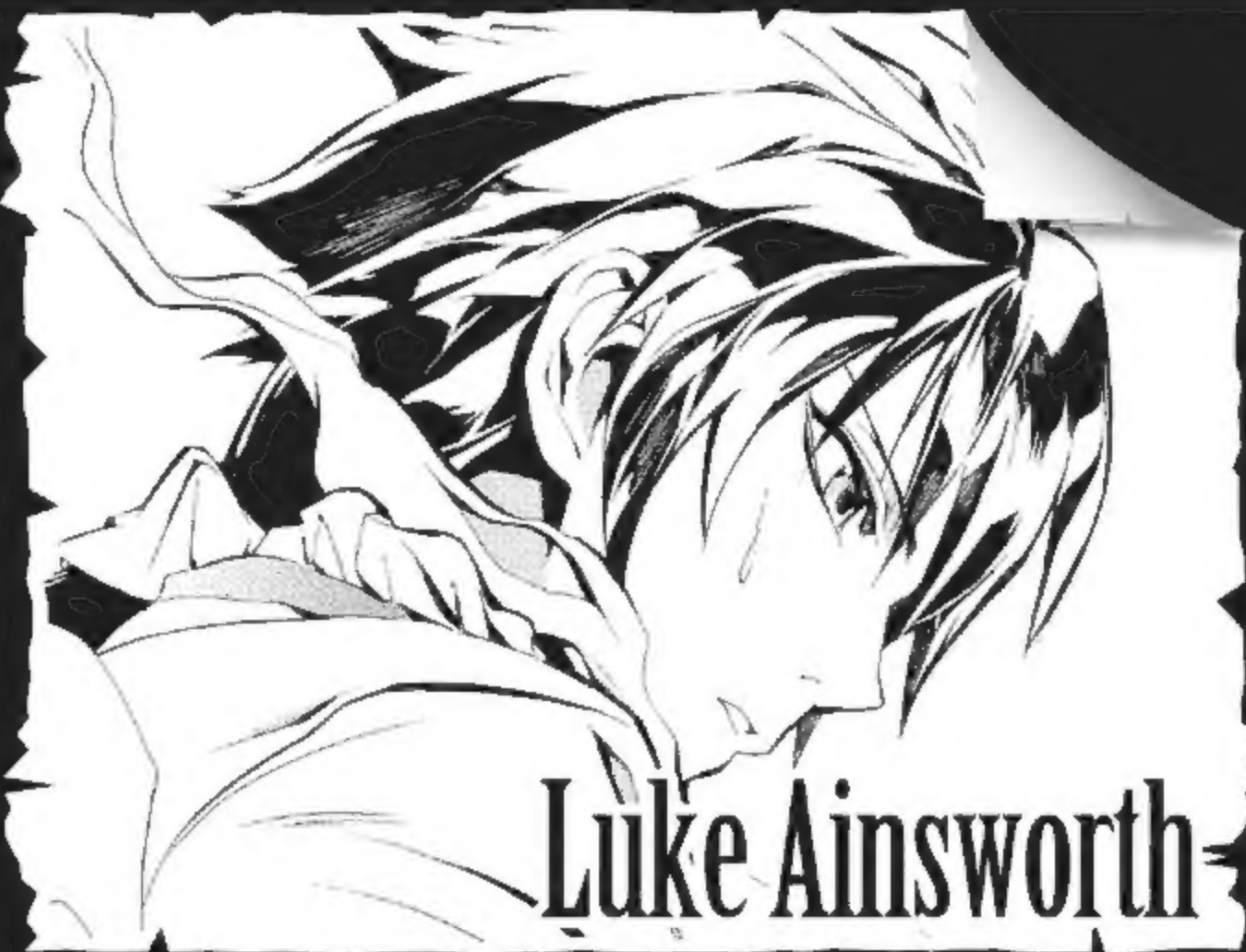
*Art by
Kotaro Yamada*

*Story by
Isao Miura*

*Character Design by
Luna*

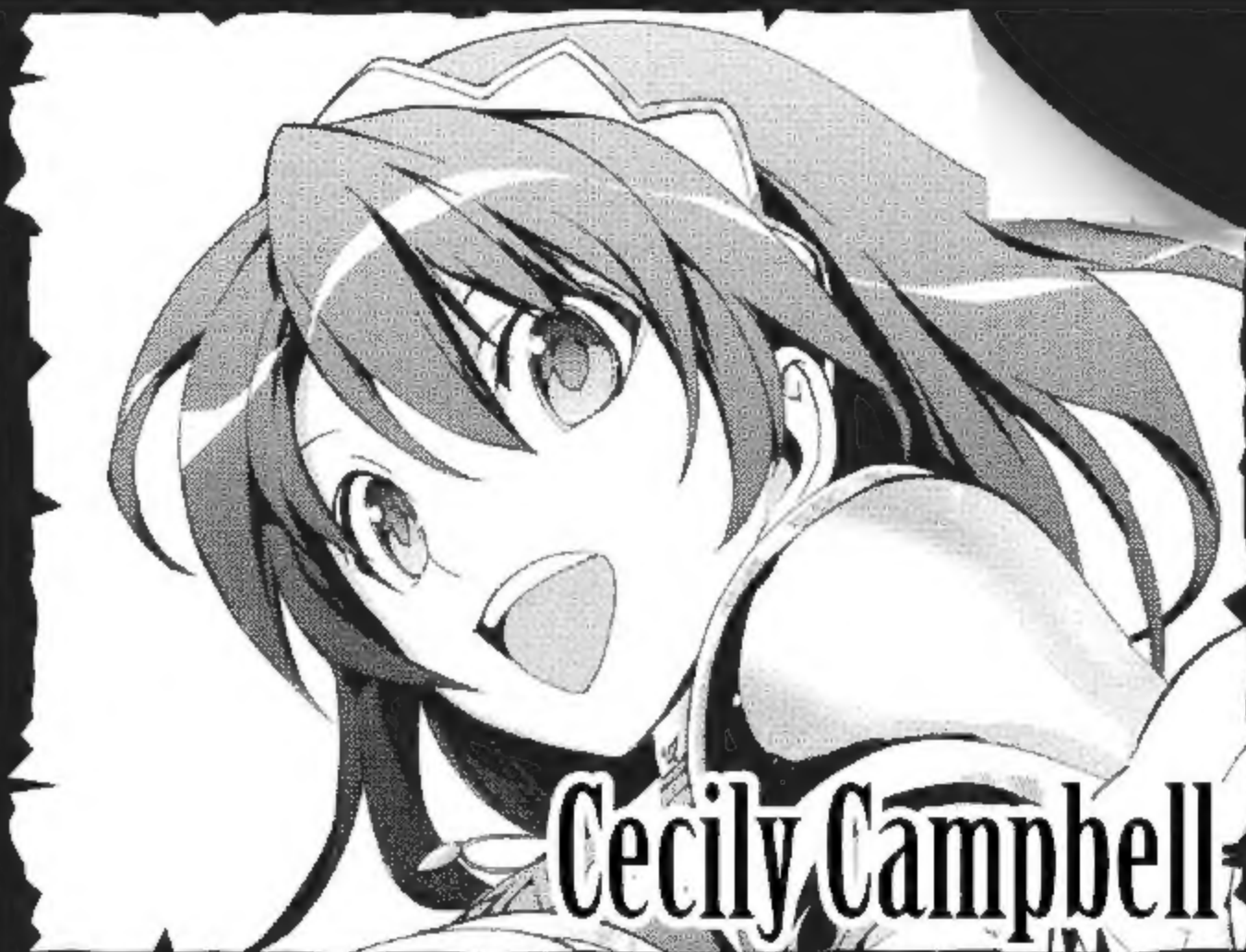
Continent

Character



Luke Ainsworth

A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the Independent Trade City of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

Though the original Aria gave her life to save Cecily in a moment of dire peril, she has been reforged into a new Sacred Blade. She has no memories of her past self, but she still serves as Cecily's partner.



Lisa

The assistant who lives and works at Luke's smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone. She says she is only three years old.



Zenobia Q. Lanchester

Ruler of the Militant Nation, she wants to see Valbanill destroyed. Her people call her the Little Queen.



Siegfried

Knight Captain of the Empire. He uses Demon Pacts and keeps inhumans as pets.



Nameless

A Demon Blade owned by the Imperial Crowd Powers. Created from rare "star metal," she became the base for the reborn Aria.



Sacred Blade

The original Sacred Blade holding the seal on Valbanill. However, she has reached the end of her power, which led her to leave Blair Volcano. She revealed to Luke the required materials for the forging of the Sacred Blade.

a militant nation
(A territory of a militant nation)

あらすじ Story

Empire
(Imperial Territory)

聖剣の刀鍛冶 *The Sacred Blacksmith*



BEGIN FORGING.

KLANK!

GO ON.

IT'S A DOUBLE-EDGED STRAIGHT BLADE, WITH A SHARPENED POINT.

THAT MEANS IT CAN NOT ONLY PERCE, BUT IS ALSO MADE FOR SLICING.

BE MY PARTNER!!

With his sight returned, Luke uses Nameless and the shattered fragments of Aria to begin forging a new Sacred Blade. After a fortnight of intense and back-breaking labor, the Sacred Blade Aria is born. Luke brings it to Cecily on the day of their wedding.



AS YOU WISH.

I SWEAR UPON THE GLEAM OF MY BLADE THAT I SHALL BE SO.

To be continued...



WHERE AM I...?

Decades ago, a great war raged across the continent. Called the "Valbanill War," it saw the widespread use of powerful Demon Pacts. Forty-four years later, a young lady knight named Cecily Campbell meets a mysterious blacksmith named Luke Ainsworth and asks him to forge for her a sword.



DUE TO MY FAILING STRENGTH, I HAVE LOST THE POWER TO HOLD THE SEAL ON THE BEAST. THUS, I HAVE RETURNED TO CIVILIZATION.

I AM THE ONE KNOWN AS THE SACRED BLADE.

SPEAK THE DEATH PHRASE.

NOW...



The Sacred Blade shares with Luke the materials needed for the forging of a true Sacred Blade: jewel steel, a demon blade, and star metal. Jewel steel, they have in plenty. For a Demon Blade, they had the remnants of Aria. As for the star metal--Nameless was made of it.

Meanwhile, Lisa performs a Demon Pact, sacrificing her own left eye to birth a new Demon Eye, so that Luke could regain his vision.



THE INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY

THE MILITANT NATION

THE IMPERIAL CROWD POWERS

The Imperial Crow Powers has declared war on the Independent Trade City. Deciding that the safety of the citizens is paramount, the city council evacuates the city's entire population to the Militant Nation.

As the evacuation begins, a mysterious woman calling herself The Sacred Blade wanders into Luke's atelier. She speaks of how the Demon Katana forged by Luke has temporarily strengthened the seal on Valbanill, which has allowed her to relinquish her duty and spend her little remaining time amongst humanity.



GYA-AAH...!!

AAA-AAH-HHH!

AAH!!

AAH!!

AAA!!

AAA!!



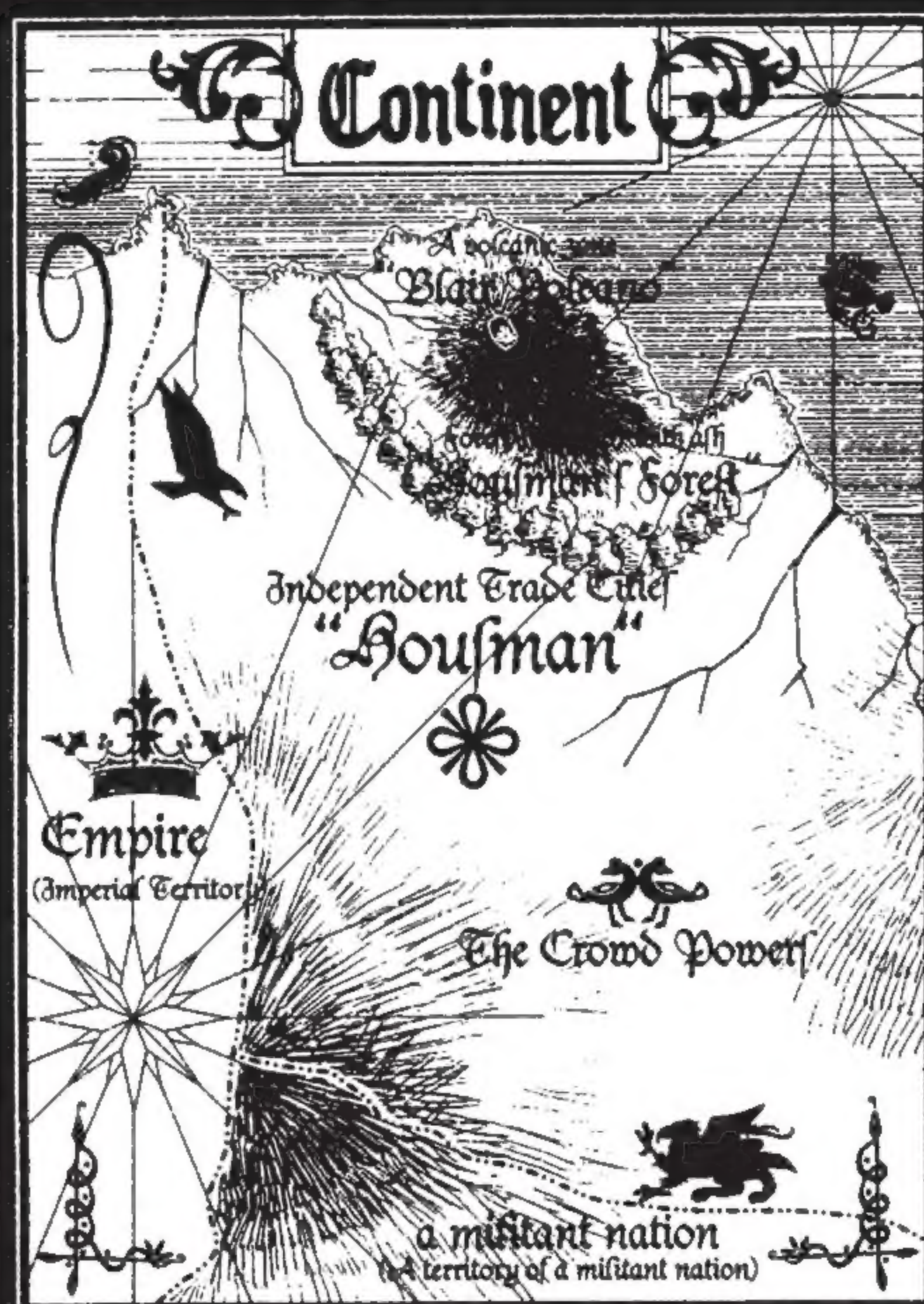
HNT?

NGH!!

BAAAH!!

The Sacred  Blacksmith

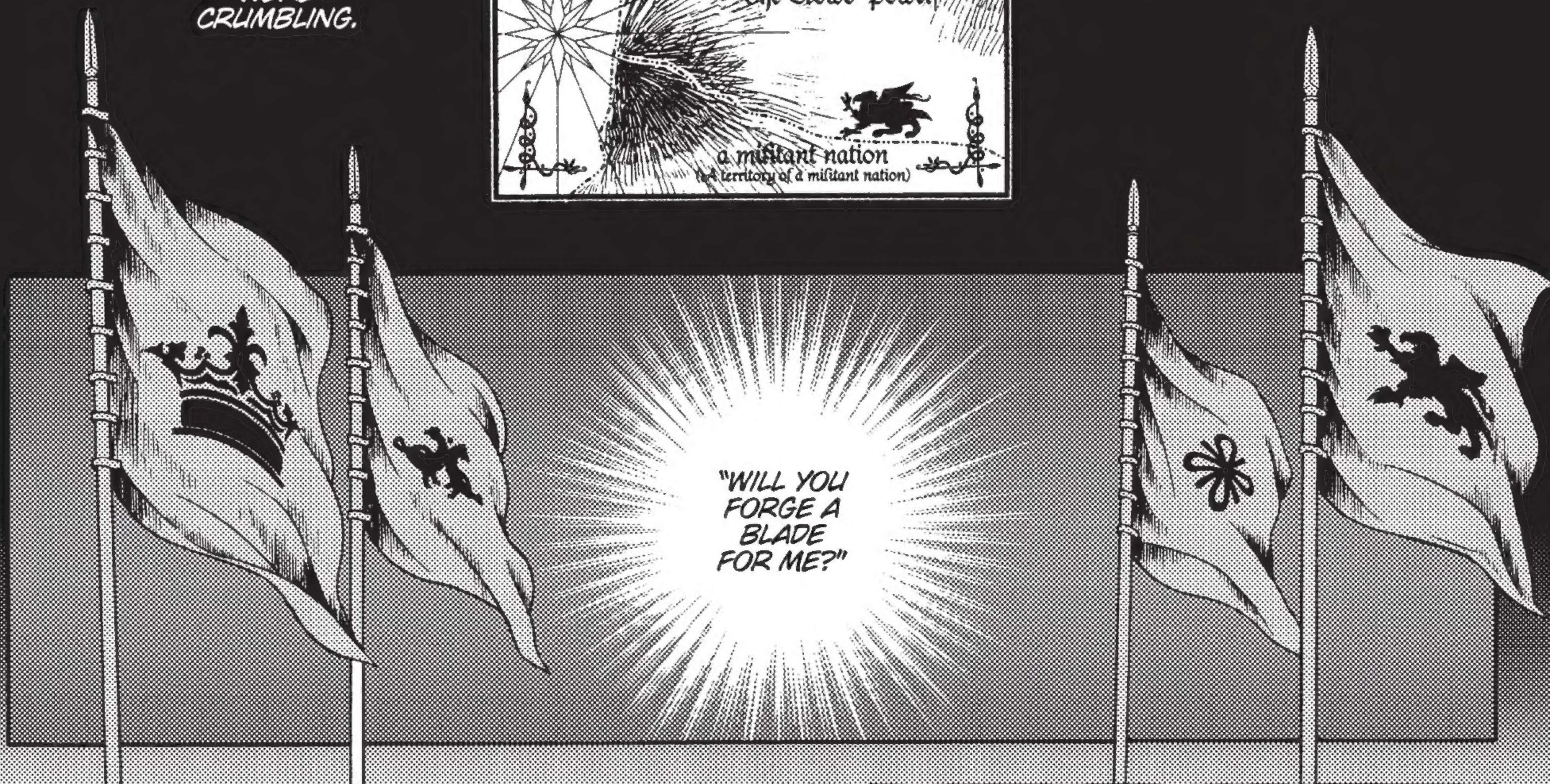
聖剣の刀鍛冶



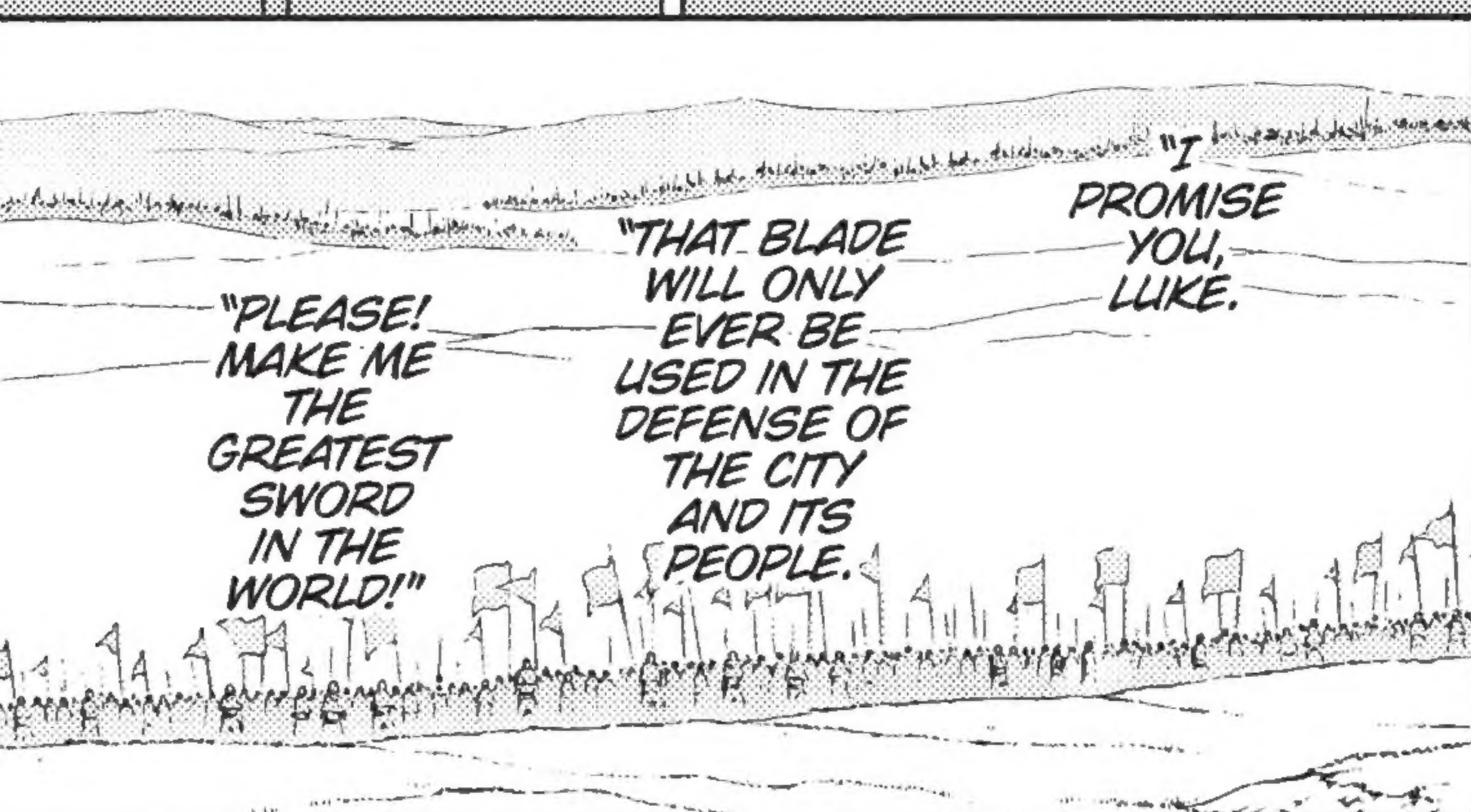
FORTY-FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE END OF THE DESTRUCTIVE VALBANILL WAR.

THE CONTINENT HAD BEEN DIVIDED INTO SEPARATE NATIONS FOR THOSE FOUR DECADES...

BUT NOW THOSE BORDERS WERE CRUMBLING.



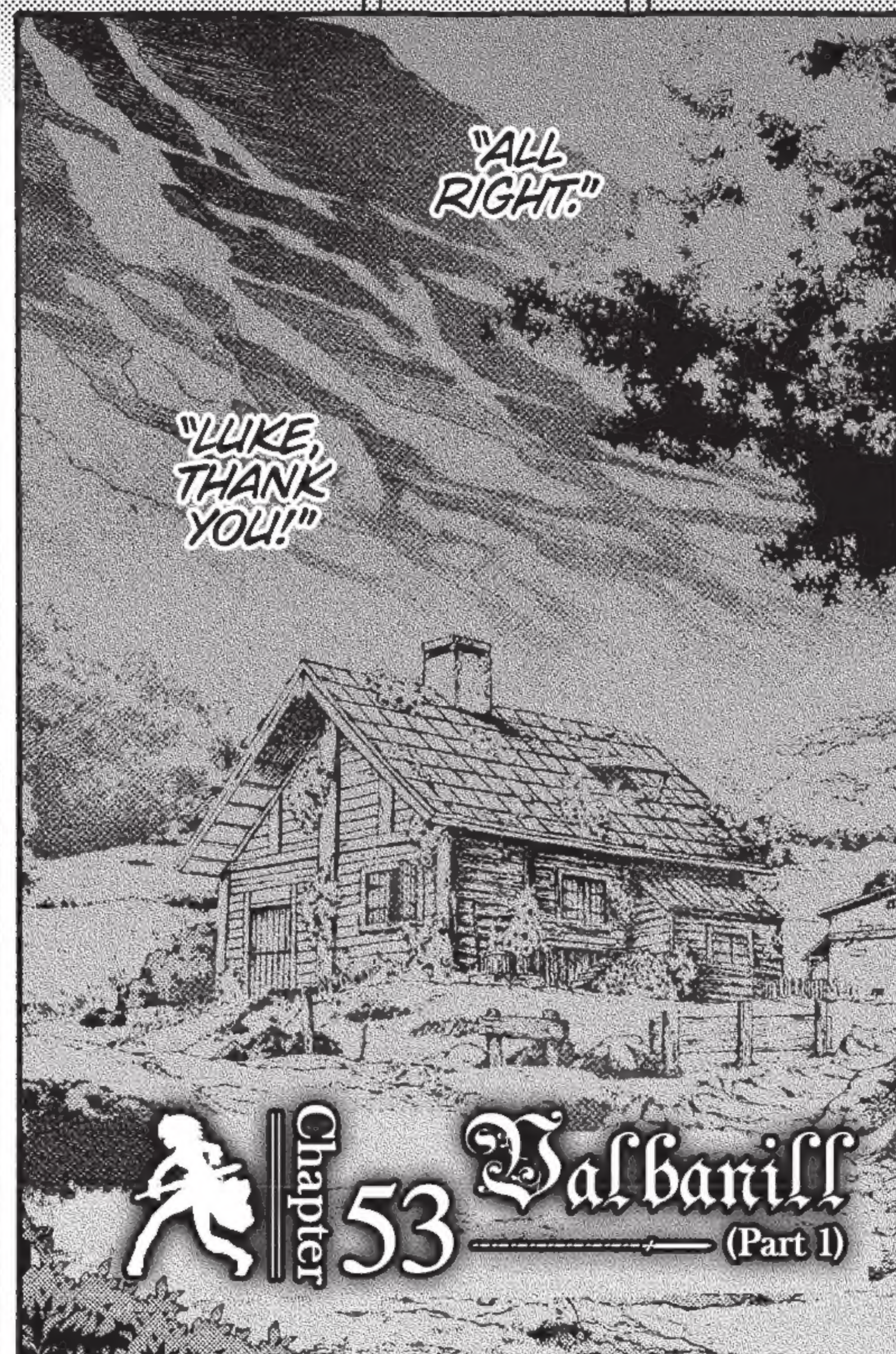
"WILL YOU FORGE A BLADE FOR ME?"



"PLEASE! MAKE ME THE GREATEST SWORD IN THE WORLD!"

"THAT BLADE WILL ONLY EVER BE USED IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE."

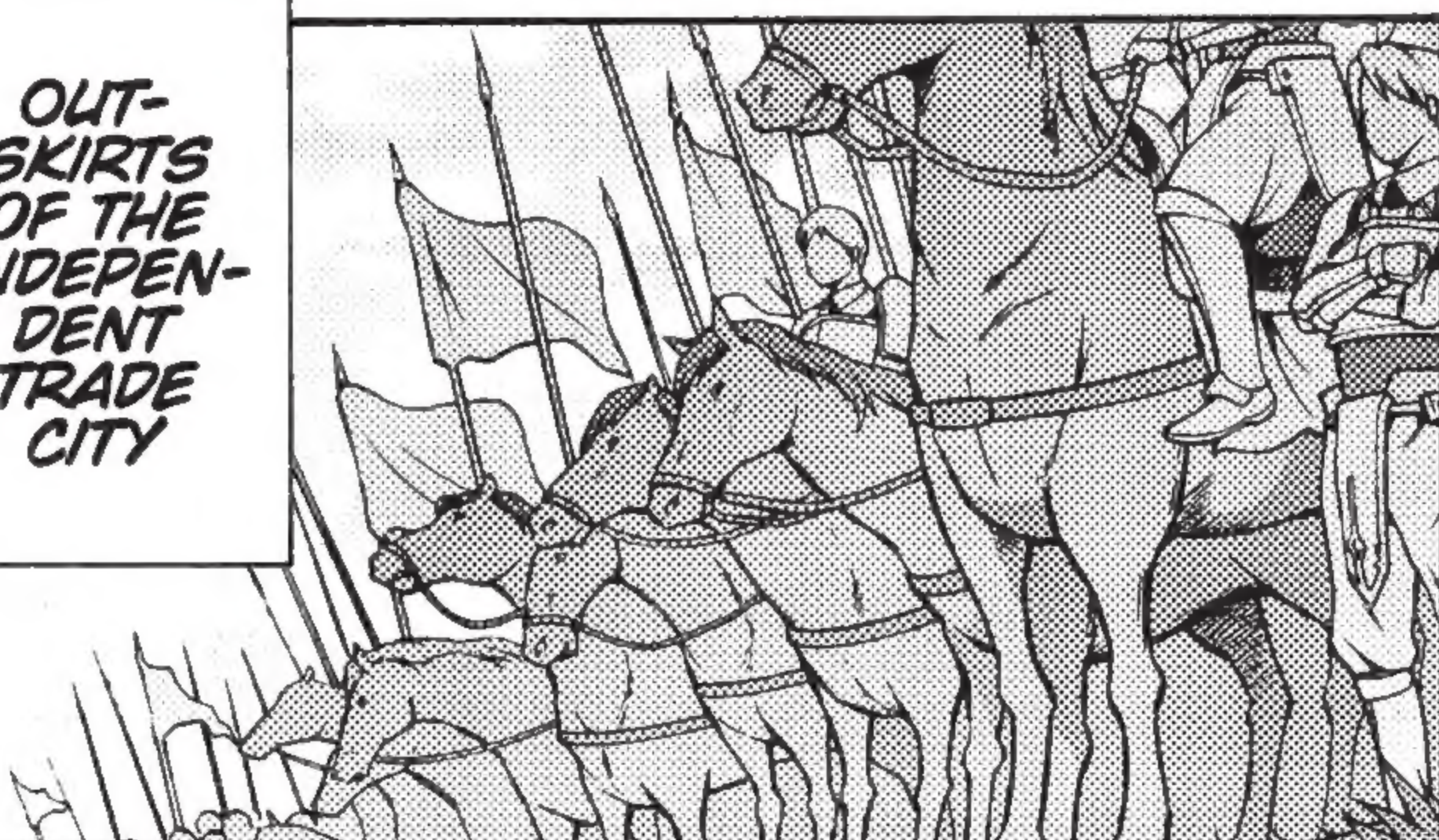
"I PROMISE YOU, LUKE."



"ALL RIGHT."

"LUKE, THANK YOU!"

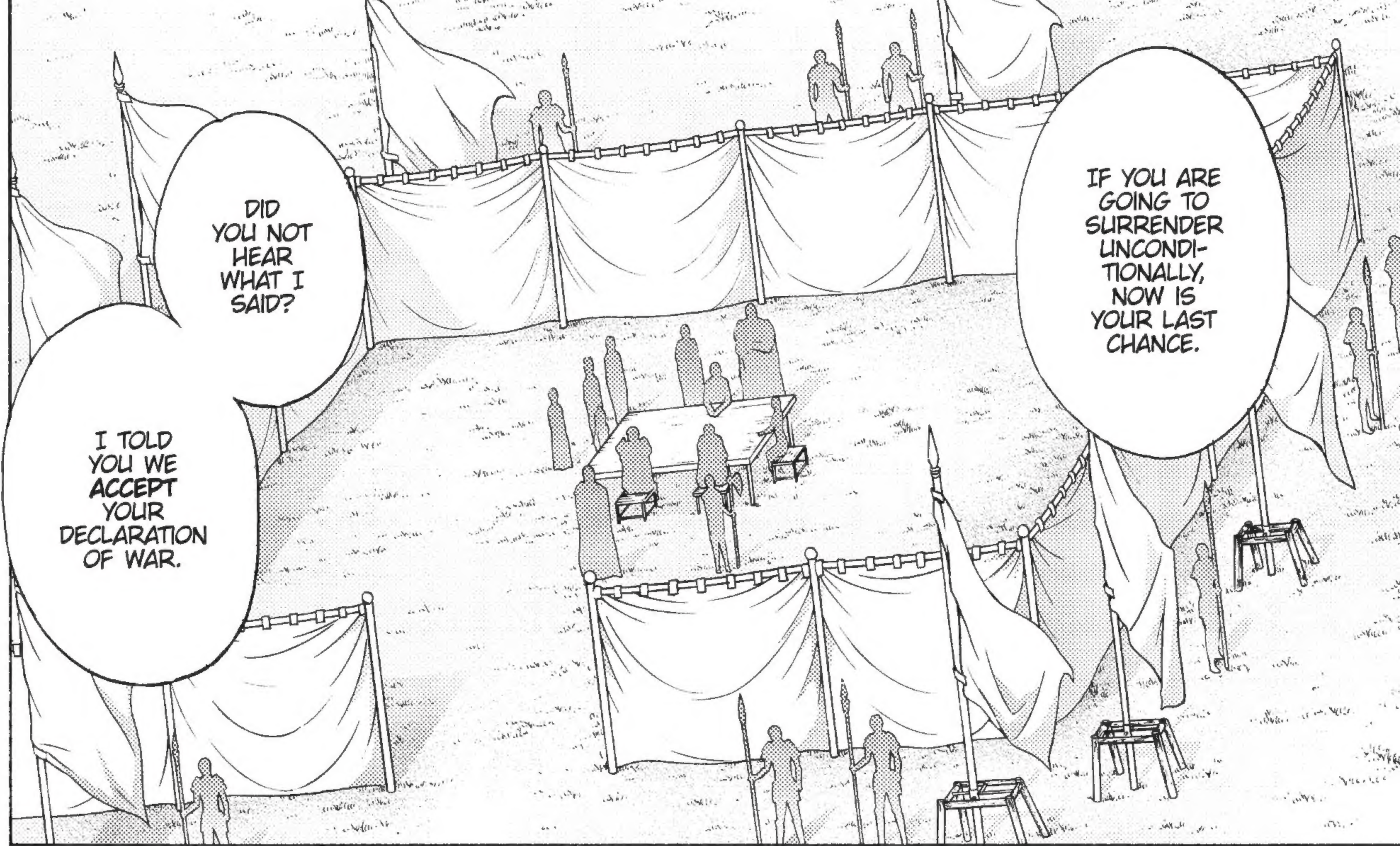
OUT-SKIRTS OF THE INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY



Chapter

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Valbanill (Part 1)



DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID?

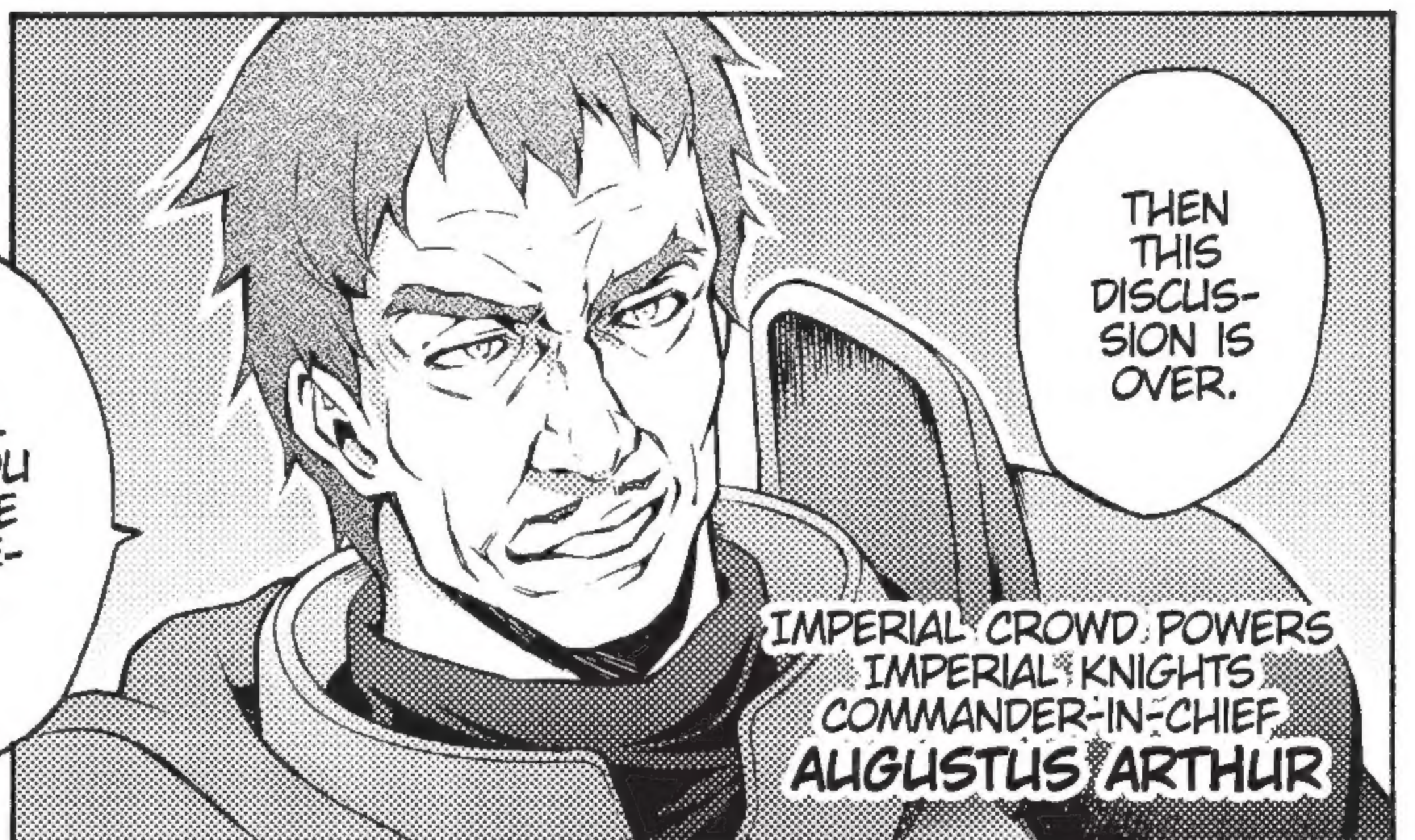
I TOLD YOU WE ACCEPT YOUR DECLARATION OF WAR.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY, NOW IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.



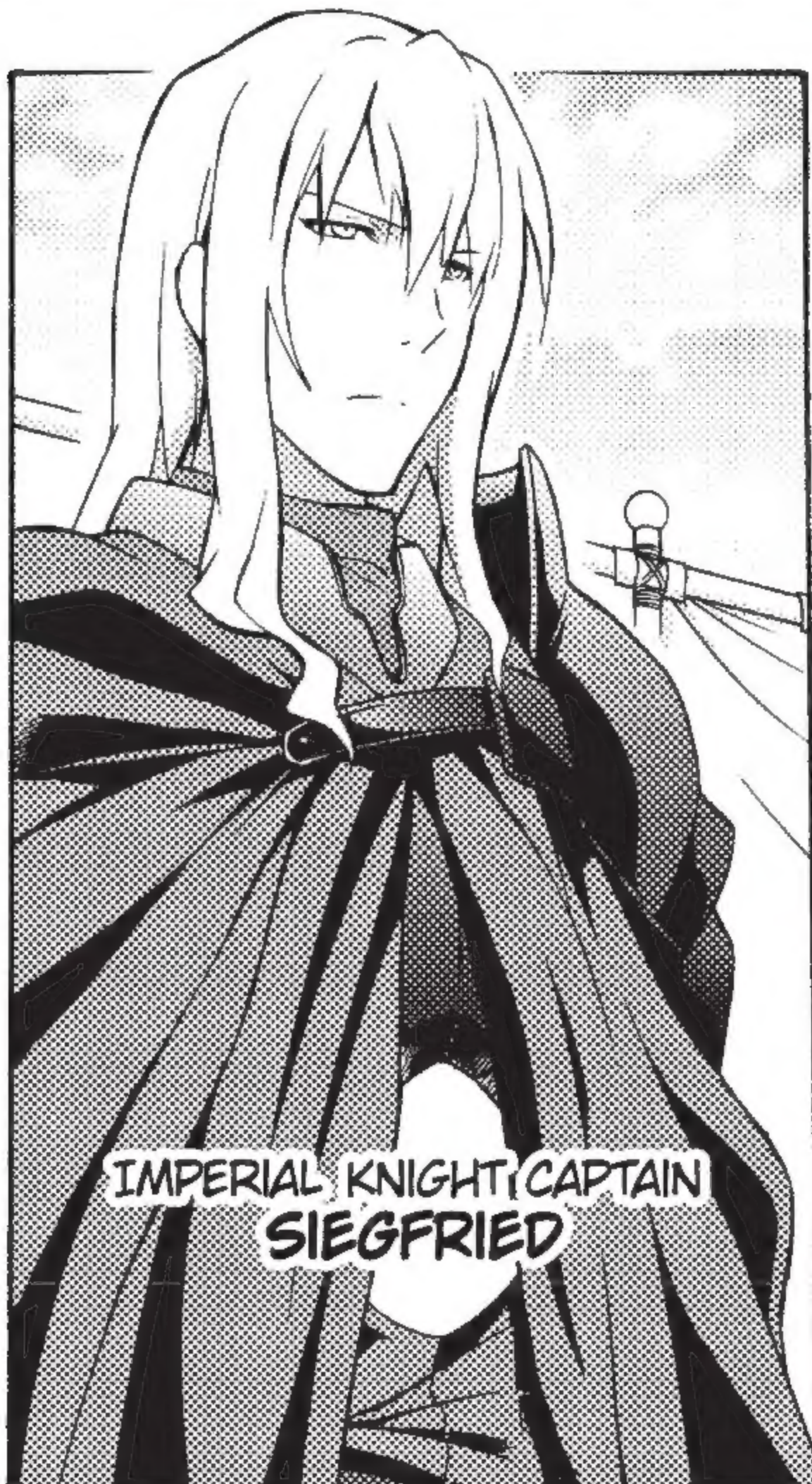
MILITANT NATION
ARMY SUPREME GENERAL
ZENOBIA LANCHESTER

I WILL SEE YOU ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

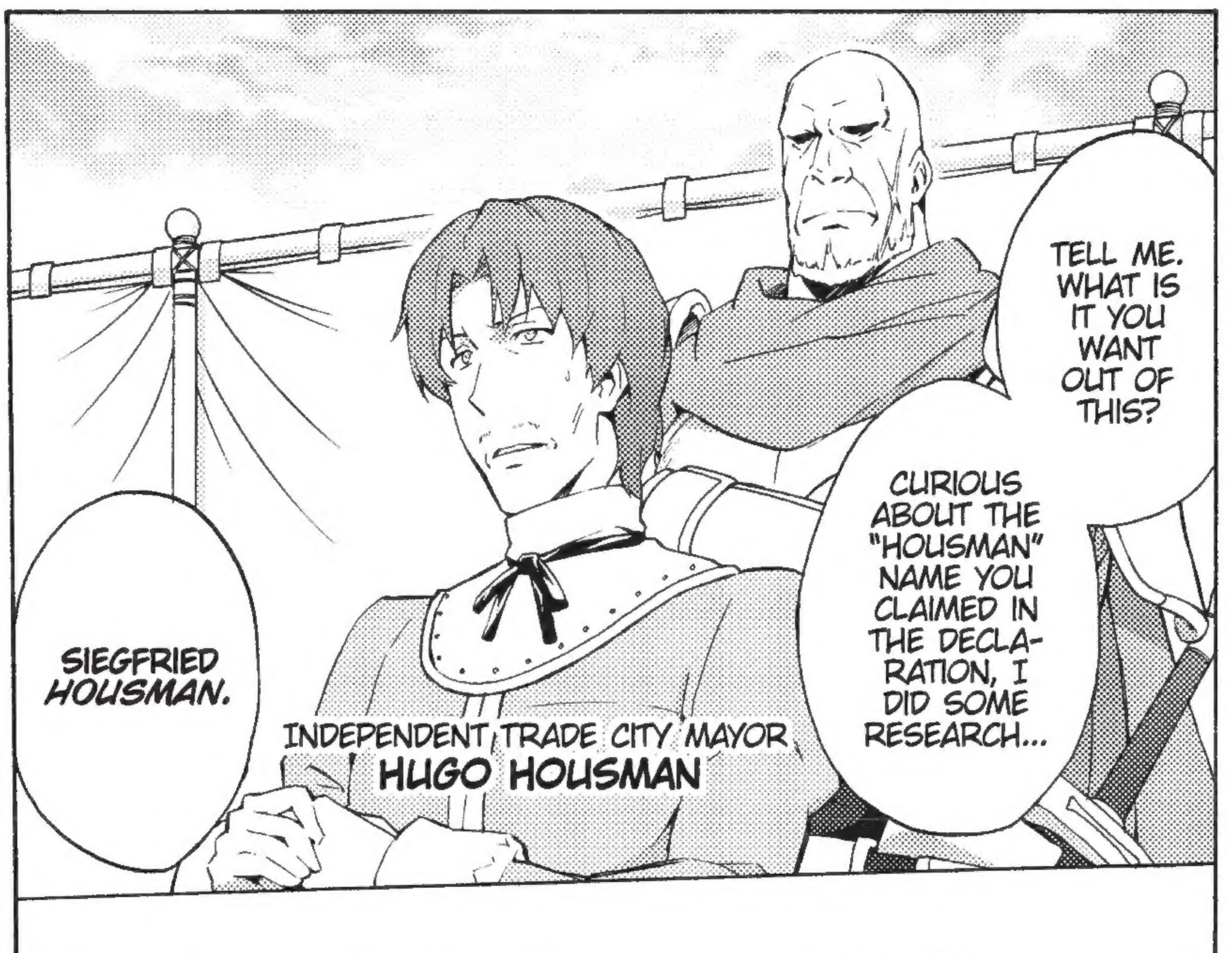


THEN THIS DISCUSSION IS OVER.

IMPERIAL CROWD POWERS
IMPERIAL KNIGHTS
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
AUGUSTUS ARTHUR



IMPERIAL KNIGHT CAPTAIN
SIEGFRIED

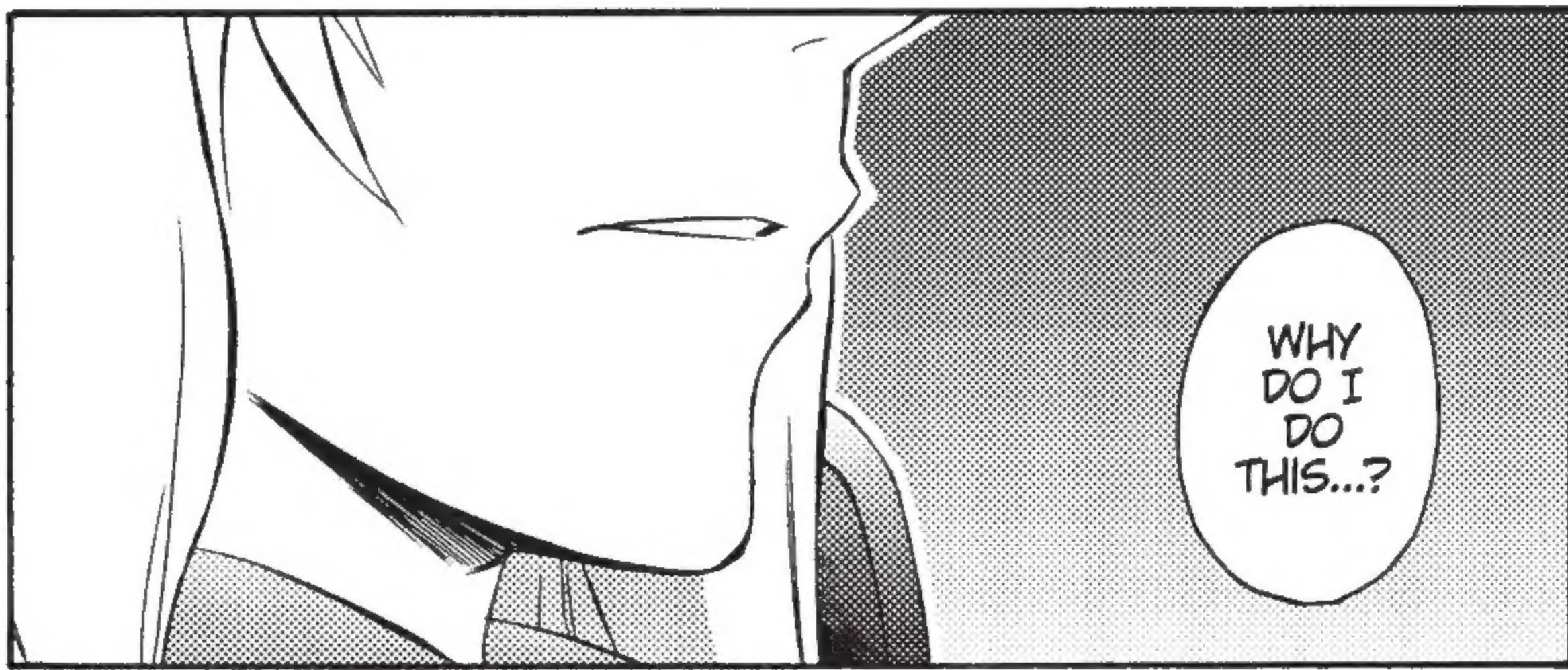


SIEGFRIED HOUSMAN.

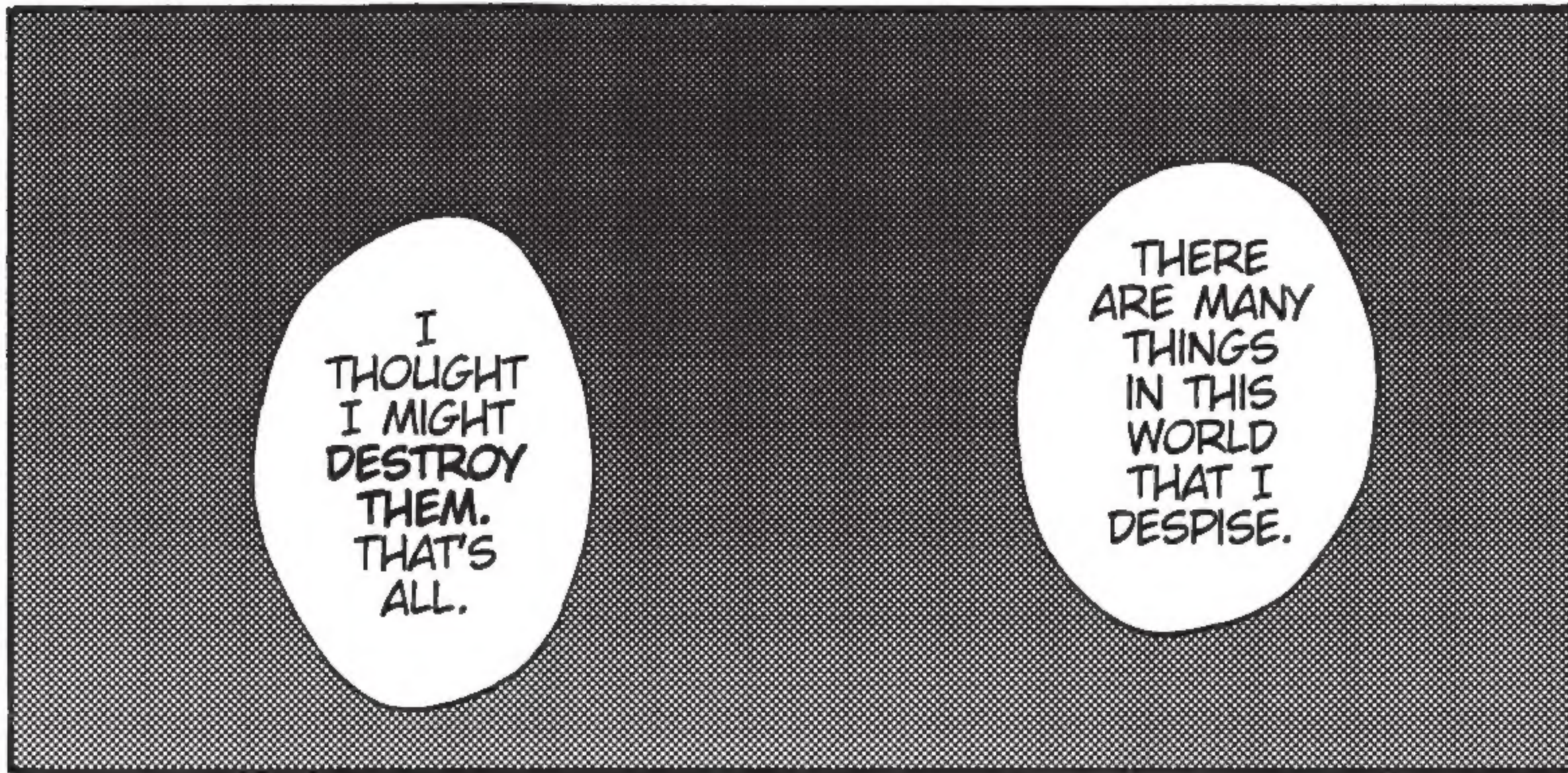
INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY MAYOR
HUGO HOUSMAN

TELL ME. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT OUT OF THIS?

CURIOUS ABOUT THE "HOUSMAN" NAME YOU CLAIMED IN THE DECLARATION, I DID SOME RESEARCH...



WHY
DO I
DO
THIS...?



I
THOUGHT
I MIGHT
DESTROY
THEM.
THAT'S
ALL.

THERE
ARE MANY
THINGS
IN THIS
WORLD
THAT I
DESPISE.



IS IT
POSSIBLE
THAT YOU
ARE THE
FIRST
HOLISMAN'S
--?



WE WILL
ACCEPT
YOUR
CHALLENGE
WITH
HONOR AND
DIGNITY.

AS YOU PUT
FORTH IN YOUR
DECLARATION,
THE TRUE POINT
OF THIS BATTLE
IS TO BE FOR
THE GRAND
CAUSE OF
RESEALING
VALBANILL.



THIS
DISCUS-
SION IS
MEAN-
INGLESS,
AND I AM
BORED
OUT OF
MY MIND.

CAN WE
LEAVE
NOW?

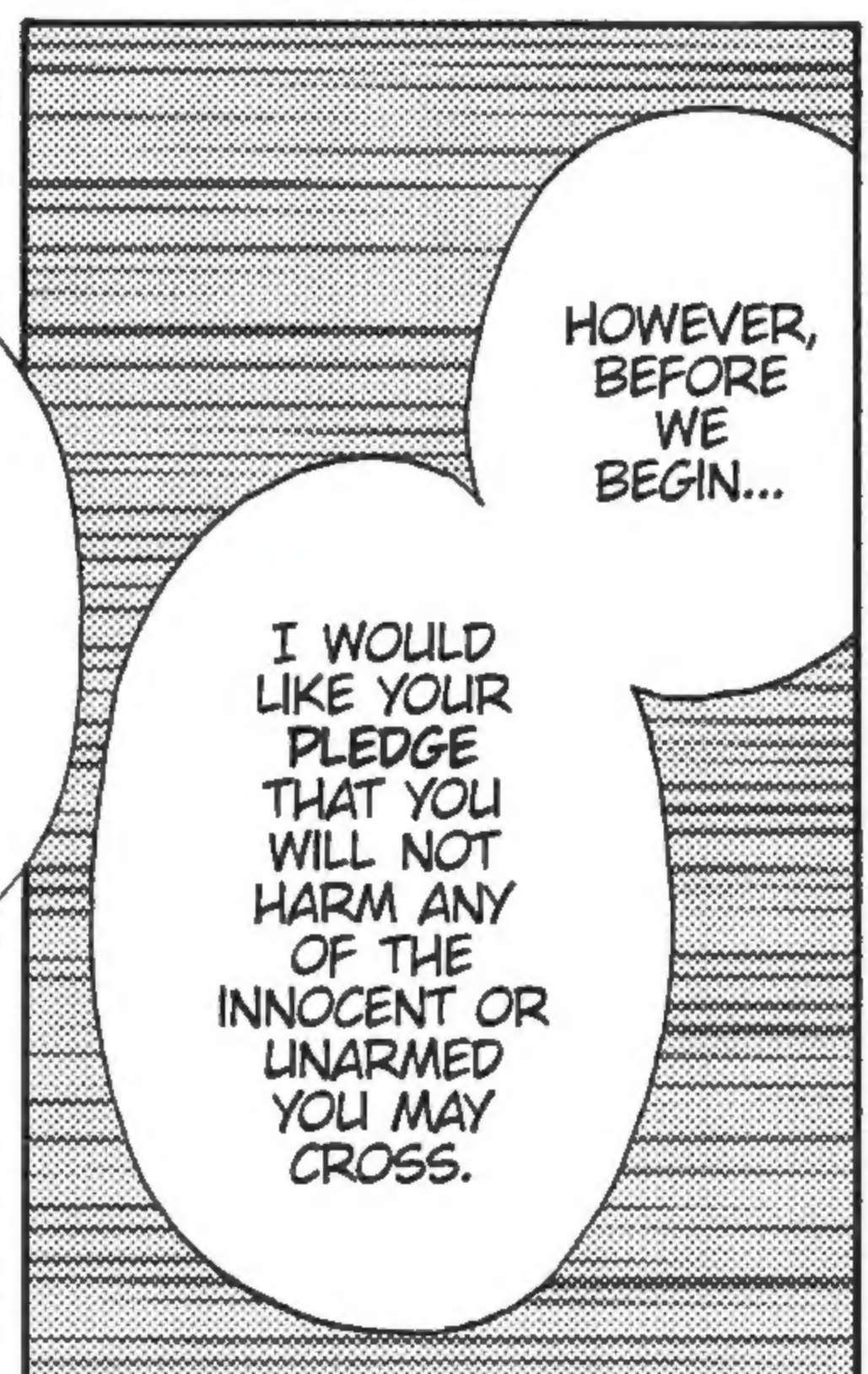
FORMER CROWD POWERS
REPRESENTATIVE
LANCELOT DOUGLAS



FROM WHAT
I HEAR,
YOU HAVE
NOT YET
COMPLETED
A NEW
SACRED
BLADE.

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
RIGHT TO
BE A PART
OF THAT
"GRAND
CAUSE" IN
THE FIRST
PLACE?

THE
"GRAND
CAUSE,"
YOU
SAY?



HOWEVER,
BEFORE
WE
BEGIN...

I WOULD
LIKE YOUR
PLEDGE
THAT YOU
WILL NOT
HARM ANY
OF THE
INNOCENT OR
UNARMED
YOU MAY
CROSS.



AND WE HAVE THE MEANS TO DO SO SUCCESSFULLY.

H-HEY! YOU THERE!

STOP!

MISS CECILY?!

WAIT!



WE WILL GO AND RESEAL VALBANILL, BECAUSE A CERTAIN USELESS SOMEONE HAS FAILED AT THEIR DUTY.

IN FACT, THAT IS THE VERY REASON WE GATHERED OUR ARMIES.



BUT IF YOU ARE FEELING A LITTLE FRUSTRATED ABOUT ALL THIS, YOU COULD JUST SHOW US A SACRED BLADE OR TWO...

OH!

ANYWAY, ENOUGH OF THIS. THIS MEETING IS OVER.

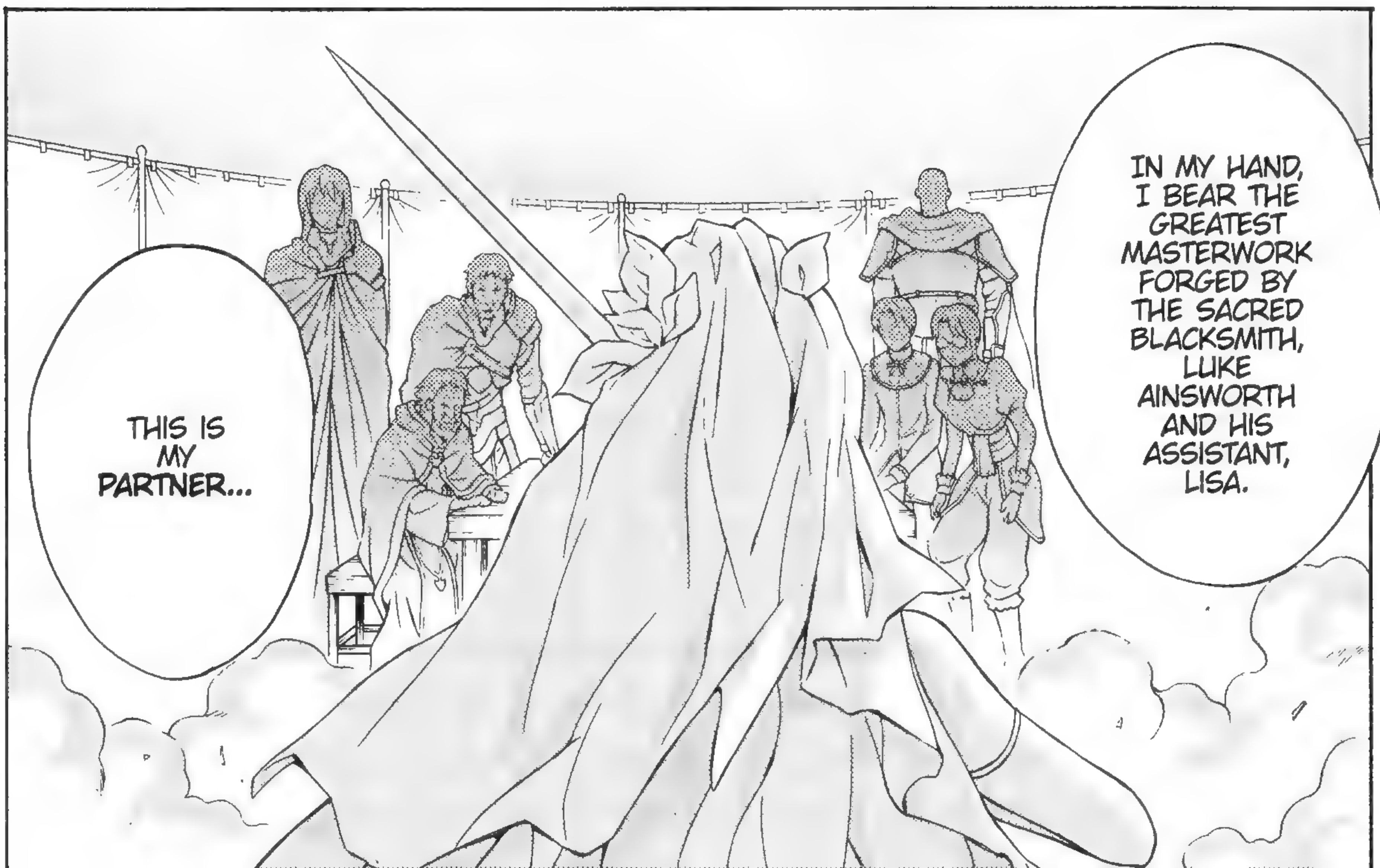
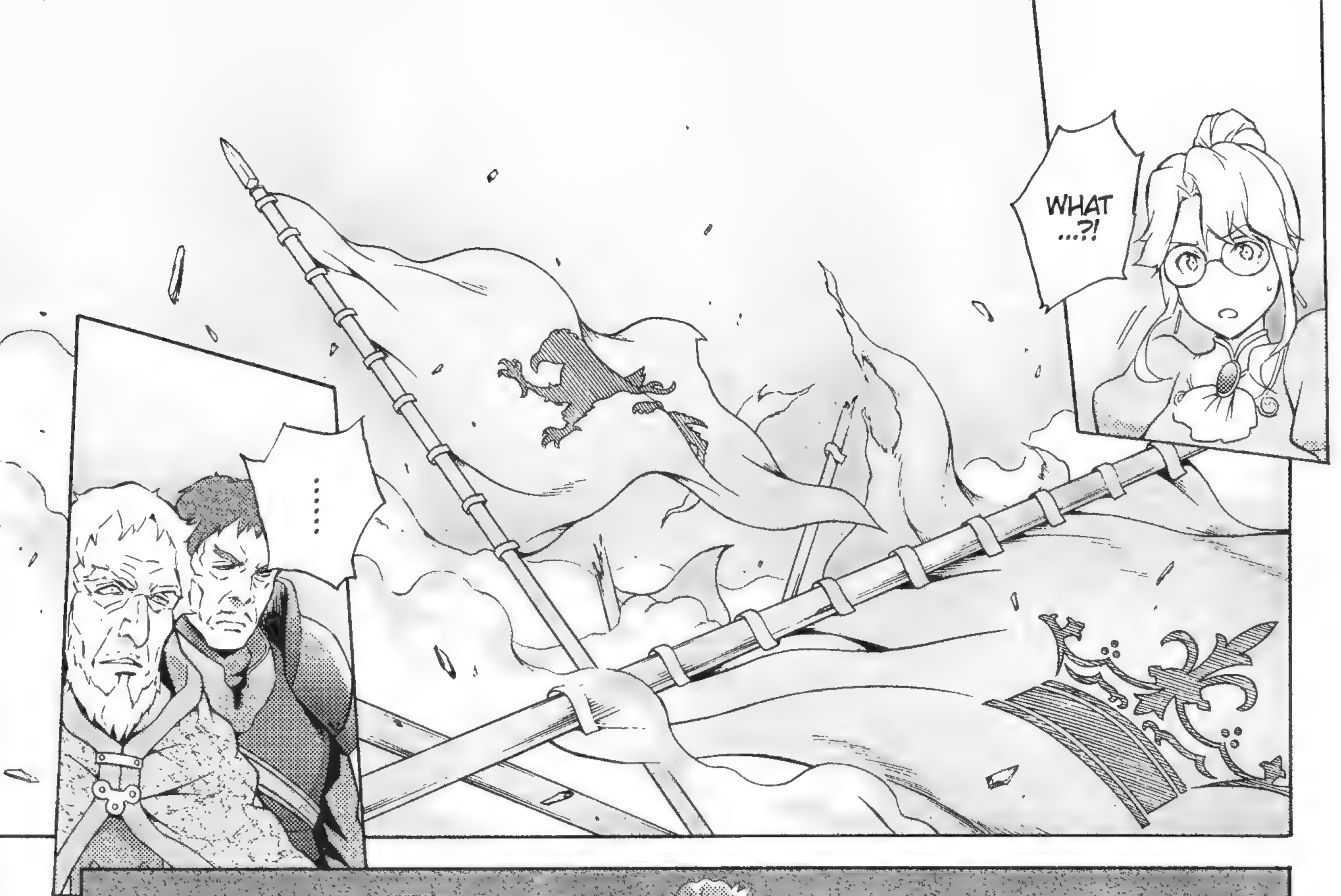
OH RELAX, ARTHUR. WHERE'S THE HARM?

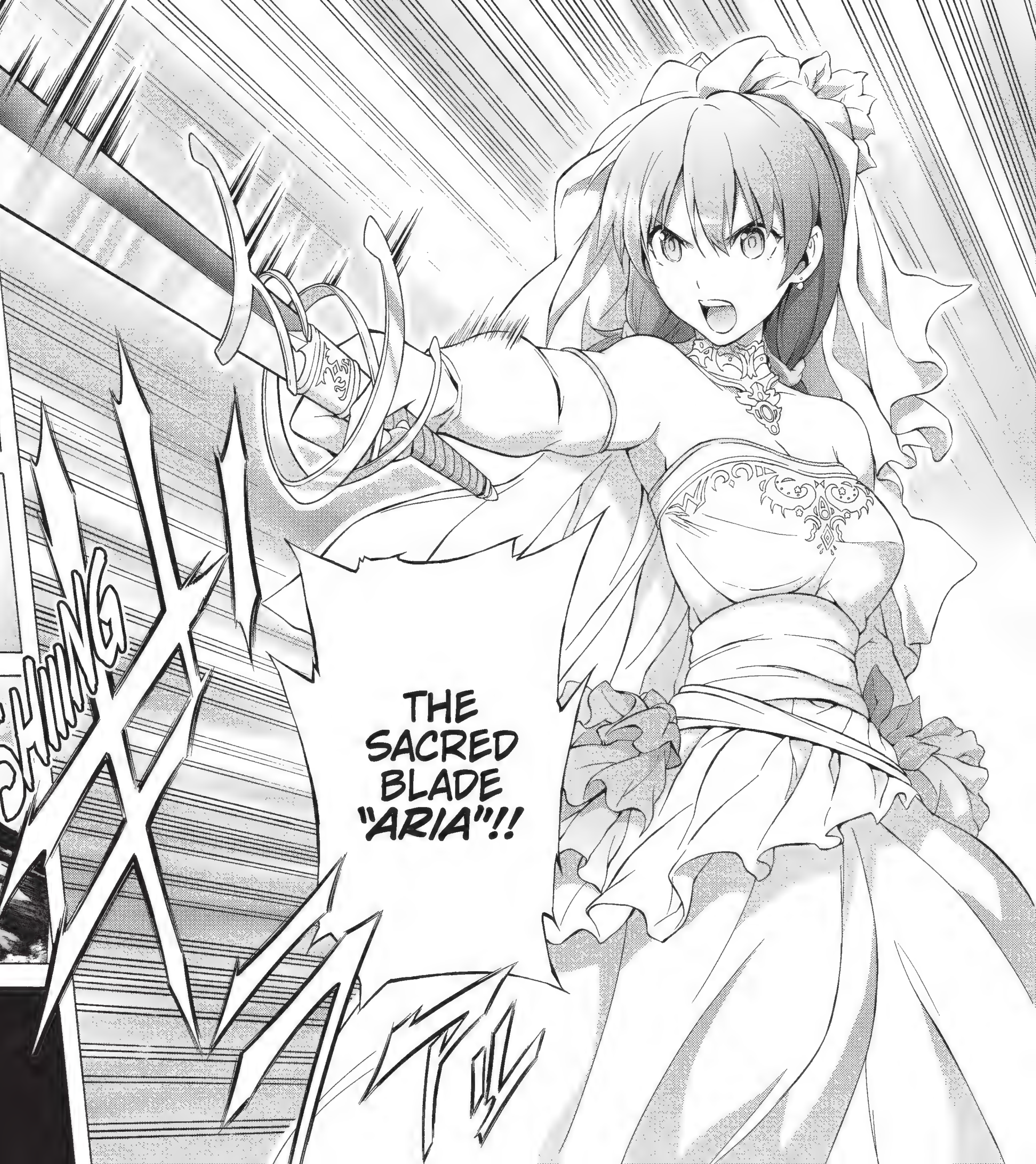
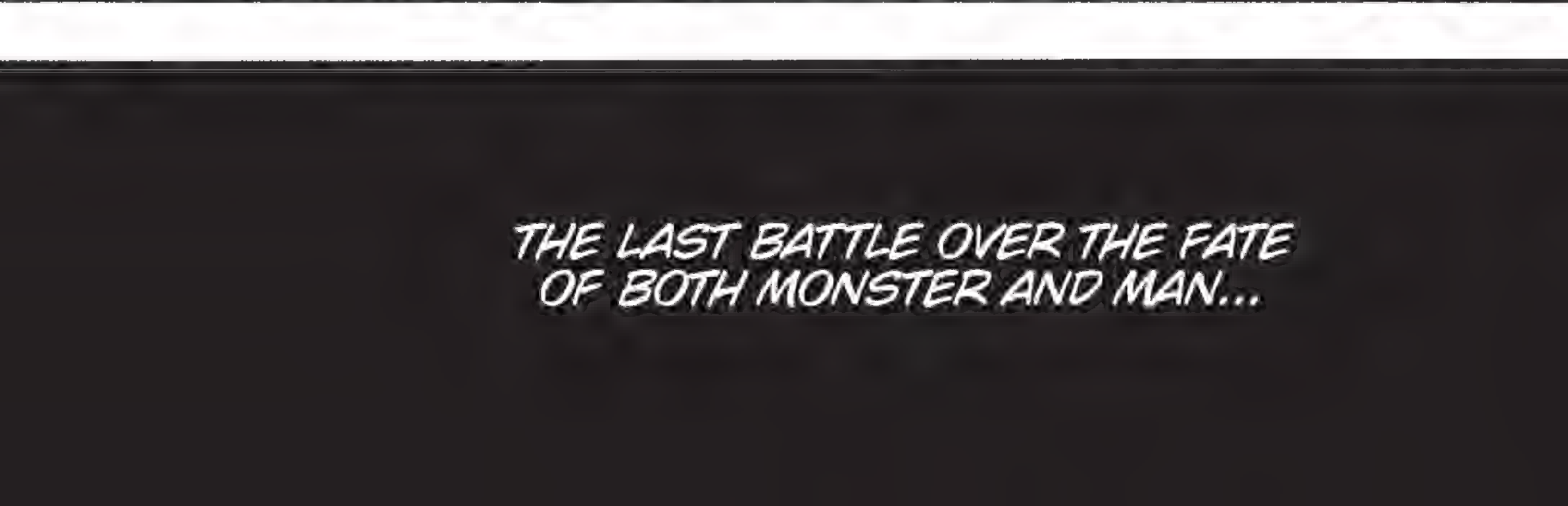
DOUGLAS, BE QUIET!

I HAVEN'T GIVEN ANY DETAILS.



?!







HAS FINALLY BEGUN.

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



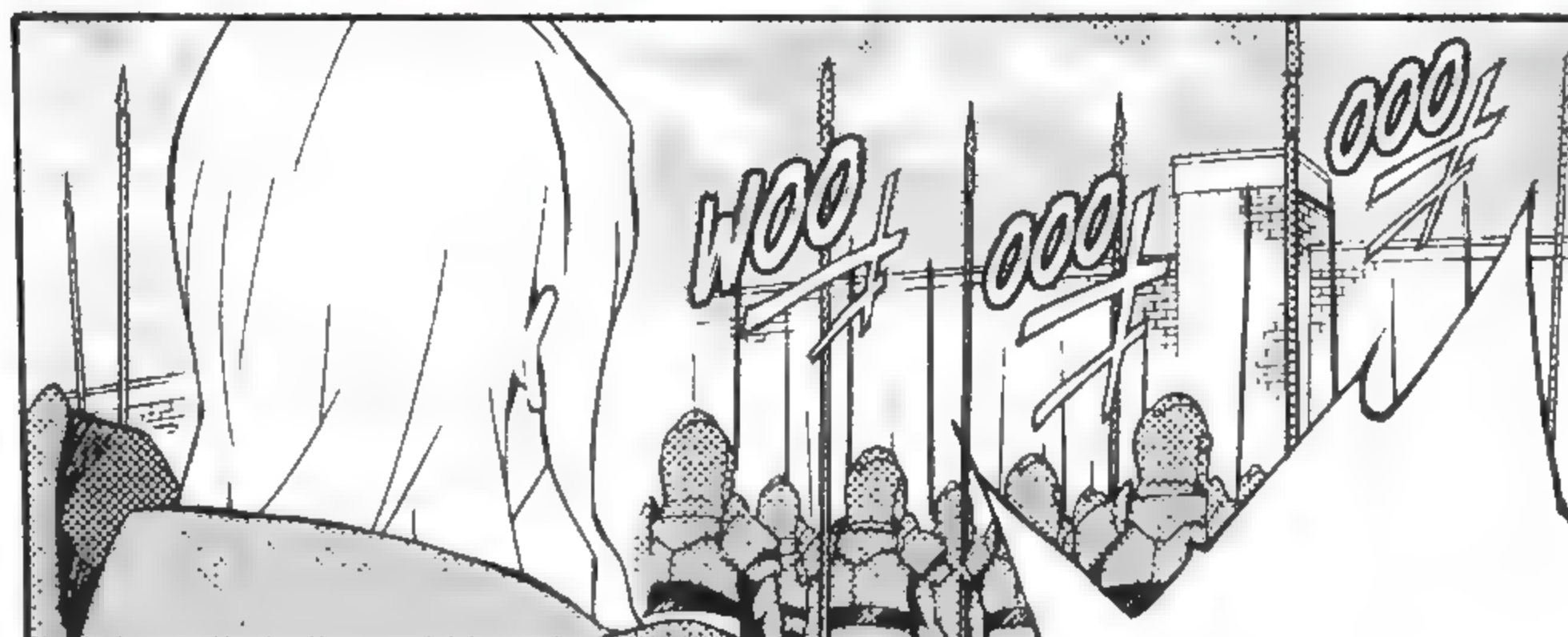
THIS IS A
BATTLE FOR
THE FUTURE!!
IT IS OUR
HONORABLE
DUTY TO
RESEAL THE
FOUL BEAST
VALBANILL!!



WE SHALL
PROTECT
THE
PEACE AND
PROSPERITY
OF THE
CONTINENT!



UNLIKE THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY,
WHICH VALUED
ITS POWER AND
MONOPOLY
OVER ITS
PEOPLE, THIS
FAILING IN
ITS DUTY...



ARMIES
OF THE
IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWERS...

ADVANCE
!!



THE FORCES
OF THE
IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWERS
BEGAN THEIR
INVASION
OF THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY,

ON
THIS
DAY...

**ON
THIS
DAY...**





QUICKLY
REDUCING
MUCH
OF THE
CITY TO
RUBBLE.

THE VANGUARD,
COMPRISED
MOSTLY OF
THE HIGHLY
DESTRUCTIVE
INHUMAN
WEAPONS,
HIT WITH THE
FORCE OF A
TIDAL WAVE...



Chapter

54

Valbariss

(Part 2)



BOOSH

ACTIVATE
THE
DEMON
PACT!

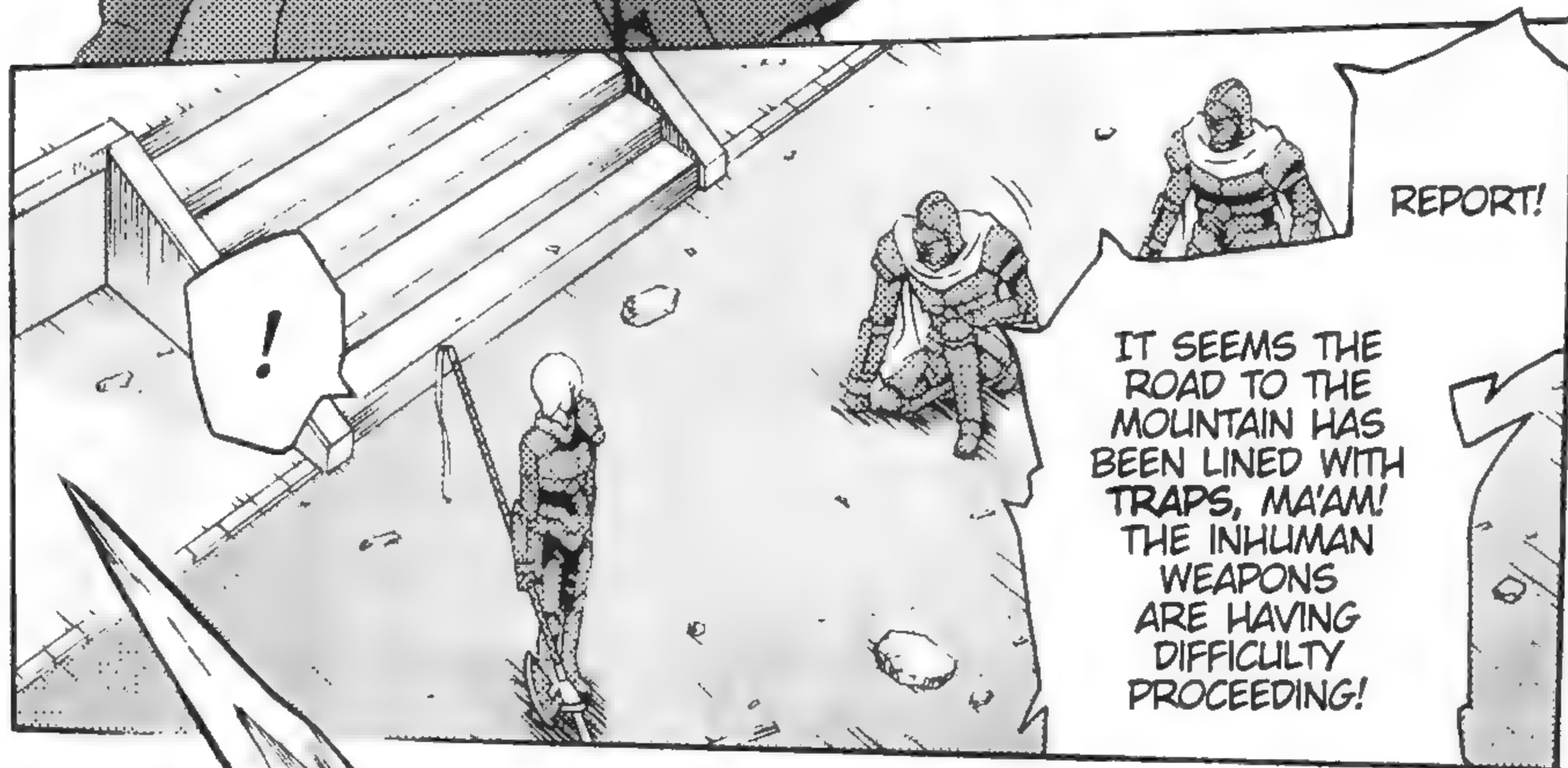
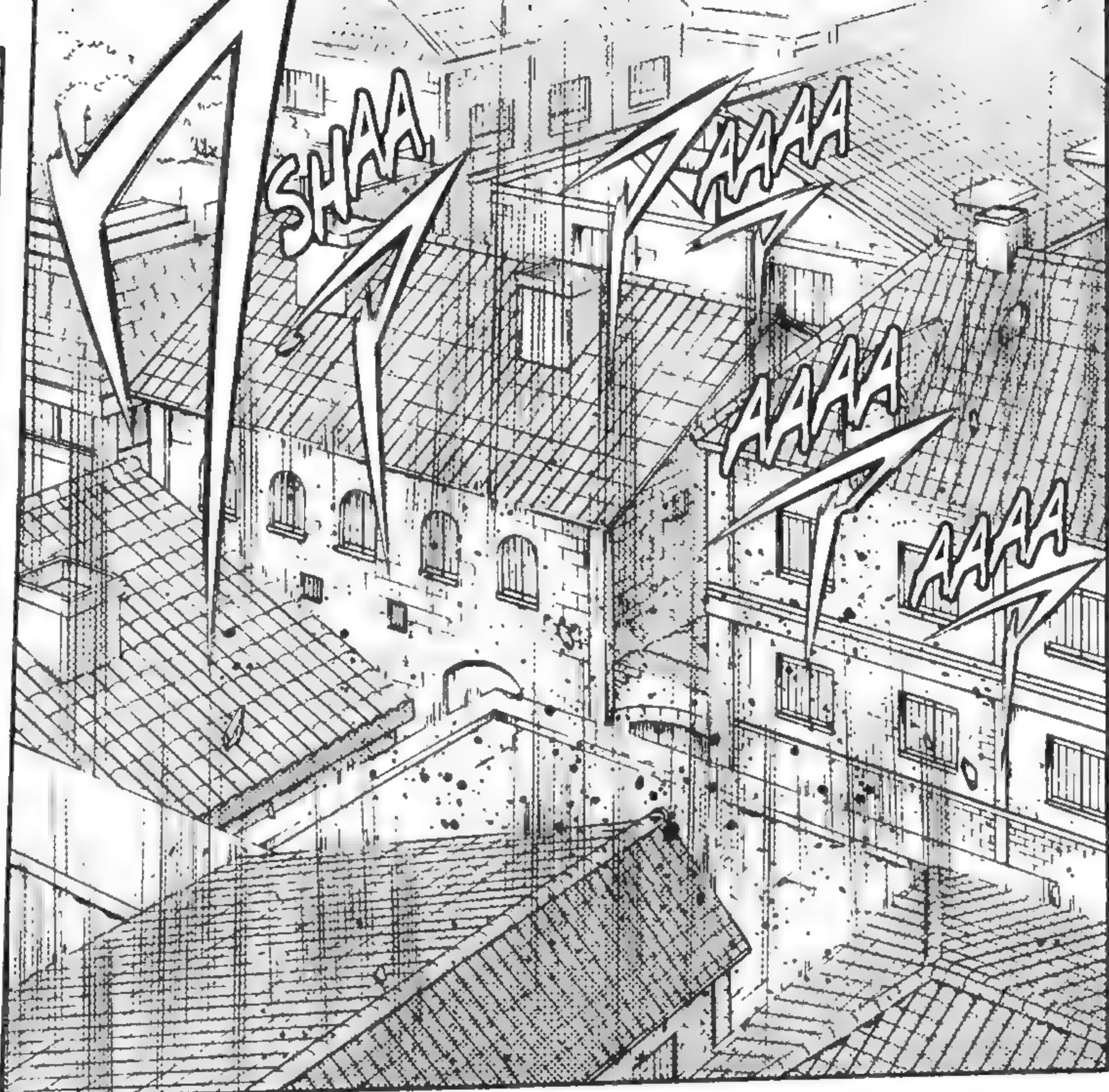
CRUSH
EVERY-
THING
IN YOUR
PATH!

YES!
KEEP
MOVING!

DES-
TROY
IT!

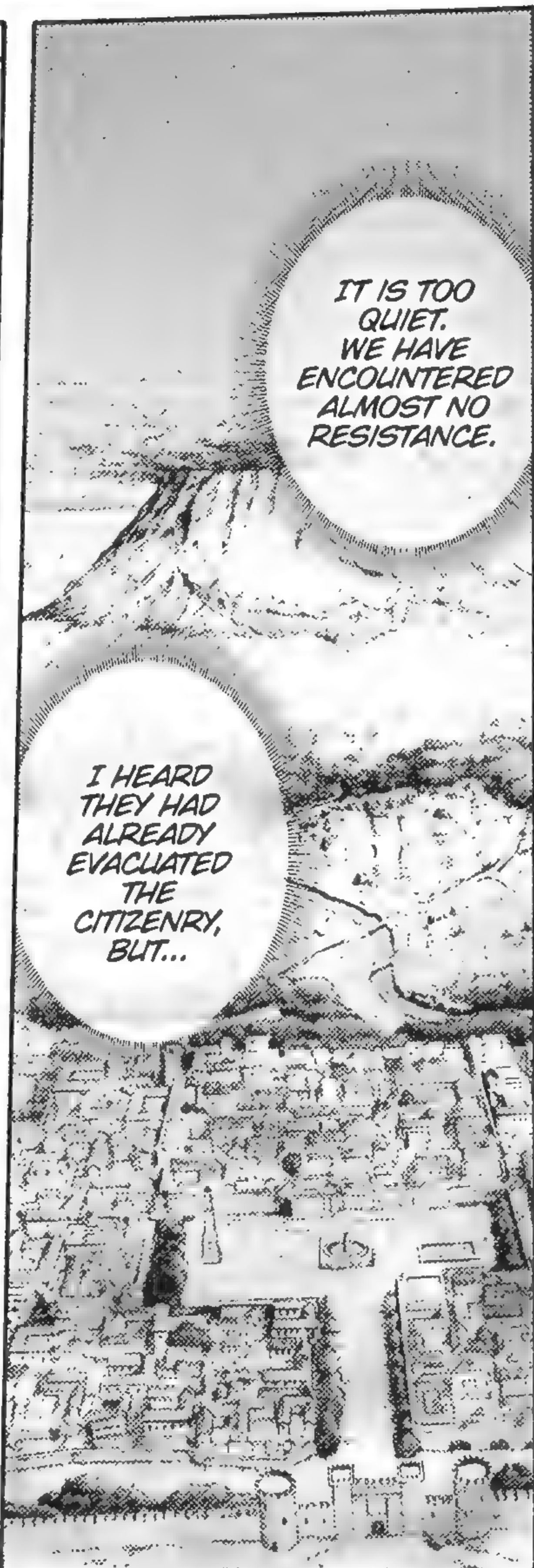
TEAR
IT TO
PIECES!!

WHUNCH



REPORT!

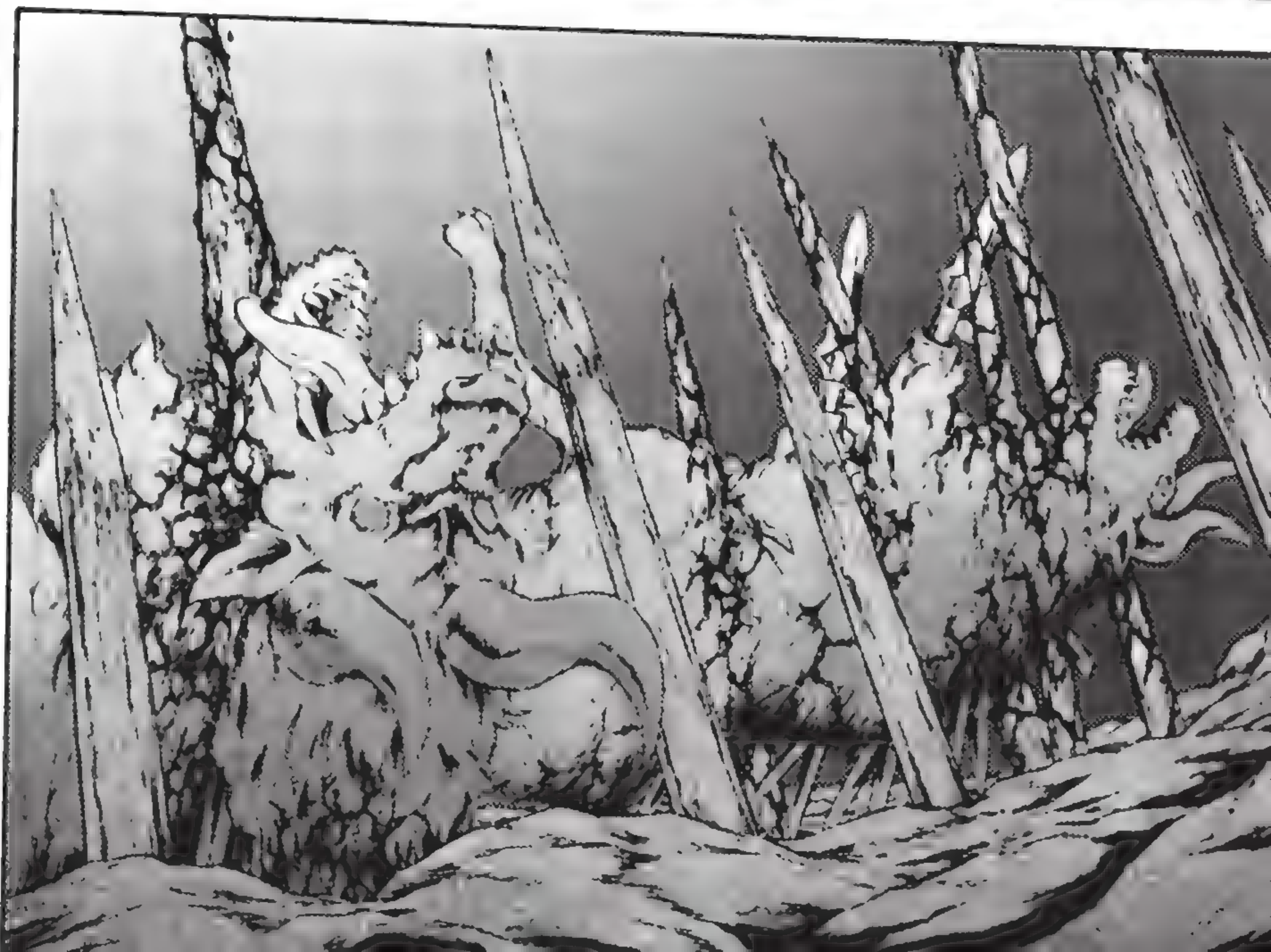
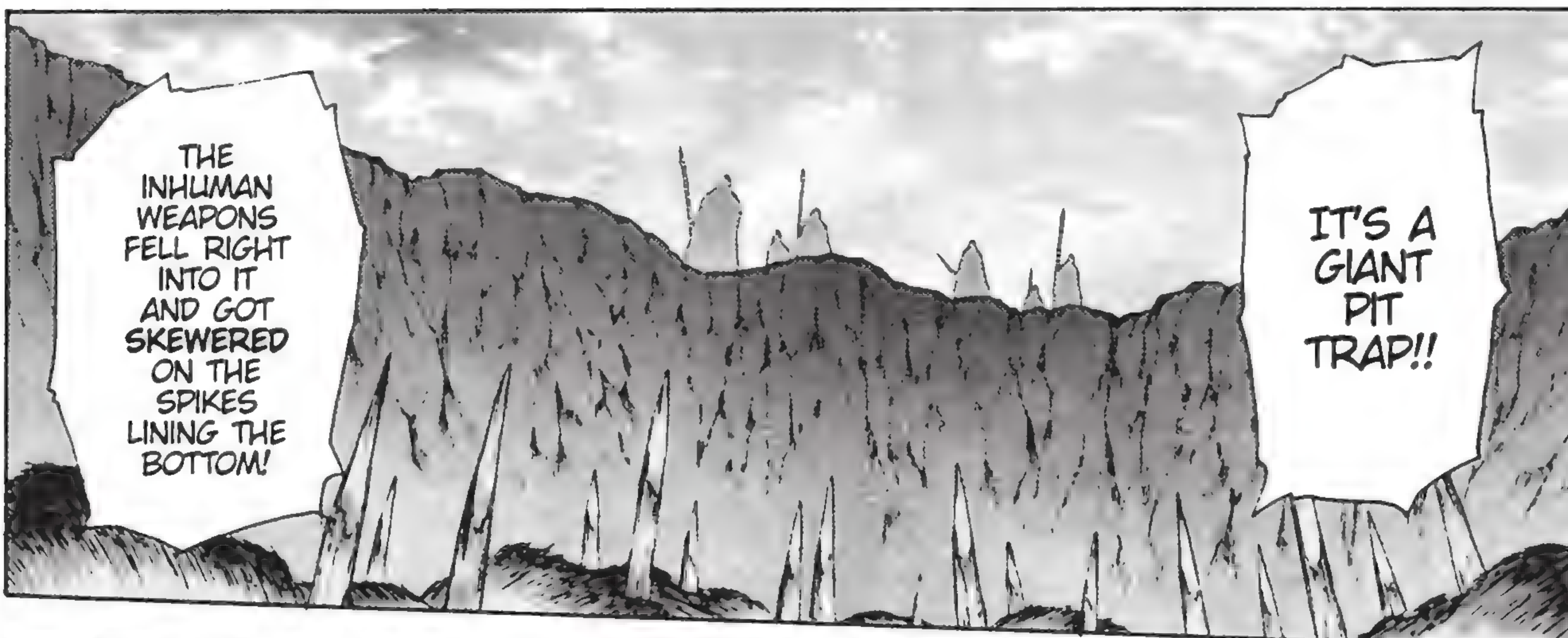
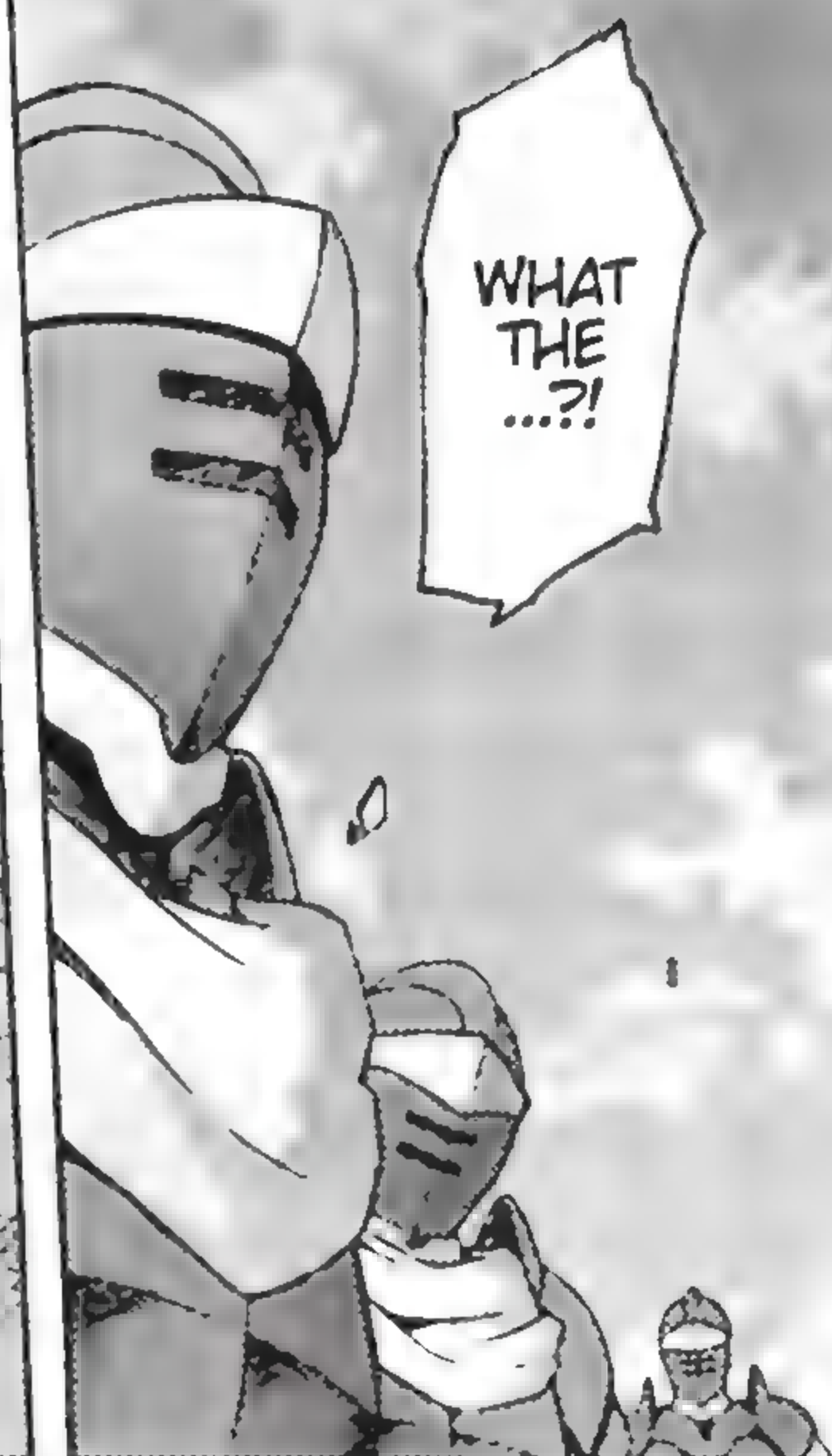
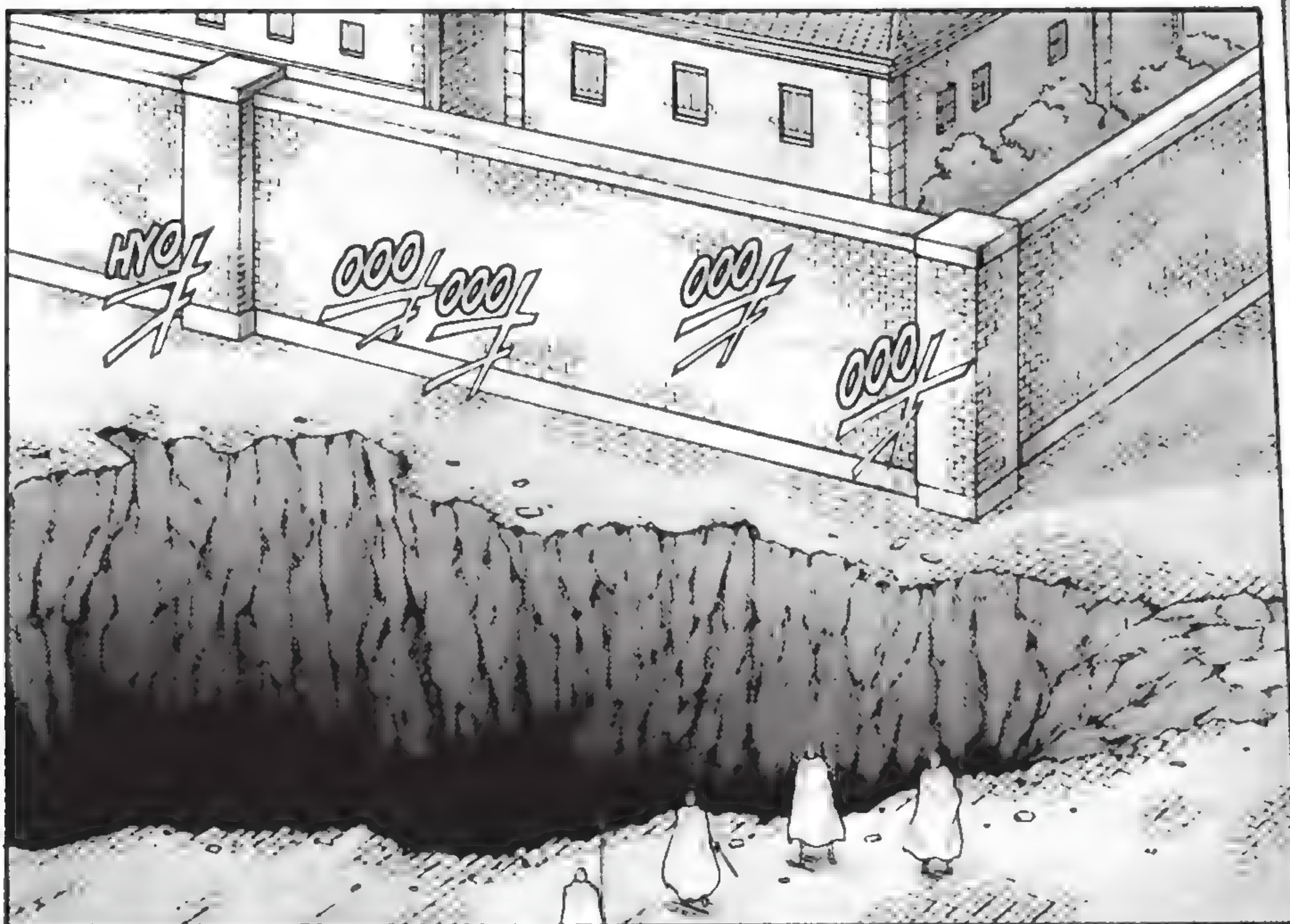
IT SEEMS THE
ROAD TO THE
MOUNTAIN HAS
BEEN LINED WITH
TRAPS, MA'AM!
THE INHUMAN
WEAPONS
ARE HAVING
DIFFICULTY
PROCEEDING!



IT IS TOO
QUIET.
WE HAVE
ENCOUNTERED
ALMOST NO
RESISTANCE.

I HEARD
THEY HAD
ALREADY
EVACUATED
THE
CITIZENRY,
BUT...







WH-WHAT?!
THERE ARE
EXPLOSIVES
HIDDEN
IN THE
HOUSES--

THEY
ABANDONED
THE IDEA OF
PROTECTING
THE CITY
AND SET
THEIR TRUE
DEFENSES
ON THE
MOUNTAIN
SLOPES!

I SEE!
THIS
EMPTY CITY
IS LIKELY
RIDDLED
WITH MORE
TRAPS LIKE
THOSE!

GWAAH!

BOOM

T



AH WELL.
IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.
WE MUST
ADVANCE,
NO
MATTER
WHAT!



RAZE
EVERY-
THING
TO THE
GROUND,
CITY AND
ALL!

HMPH!
WHAT AN
UNNEC-
ESSARY
BOTHR.



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



HALF HUMAN,
HALF DEMON,
HE WAS
BORN FROM
THE FIRST
HOUSMAN'S
EXPERIMENTS
ON MATING
DEMONS WITH
HUMANS.

SIEGFRIED
HOUSMAN.



Chapter

55

Valbanill

(Part 3)

THE GREATEST
CONTRIBUTION
TO THEIR
RECOVERY
WAS THE
INVENTION
OF THE
PRAYER PACT.

FLAGRANT
ABUSE OF THE
DEMON PACT
SYSTEM HAD
LEFT ALL THE
NATIONS OF
THE CONTINENT
EXHAUSTED
AND DRAINED.

REWIND TIME TO
APPROXIMATELY
45 YEARS AGO.
THE VALBANILL
WAR WAS FINALLY
ENDING.



PRAYER PACTS
COULD DO A
GREAT MANY
THINGS, FROM
LIGHTING FIRES
TO BRINGING
PURIFYING
WINDS, EVEN
HEALING
WOUNDS AND
AILMENTS.

THEY QUICKLY
FOUND USE IN
NEARLY ALL
ASPECTS OF
EVERYDAY
LIFE, PUTTING
CIVILIZATION
ON THE ROAD
TO RECOVERY.

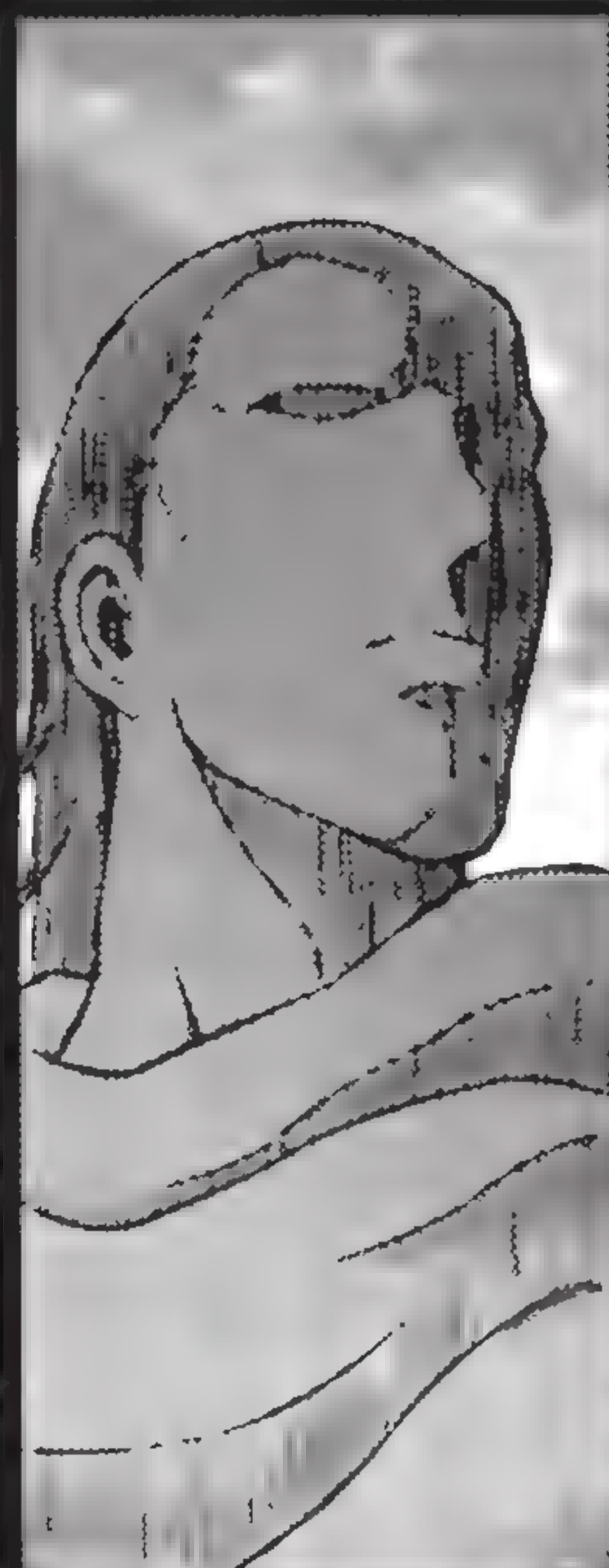
USING JEWEL
STEEL AS A
MEDIUM AND
CONSUMING
AMBIENT
SPIRIT
ESSENCE,
PRAYER
PACTS CAN
BE USED BY
ALMOST
ANYONE.

HOWEVER,
HIDDEN
BENEATH
THAT
SHINING
SUCCESS...

WERE
INNUMERABLE
EXPERIMENTS
THAT COULD
BE CALLED
NOTHING
SHORT OF...
INHUMAN.

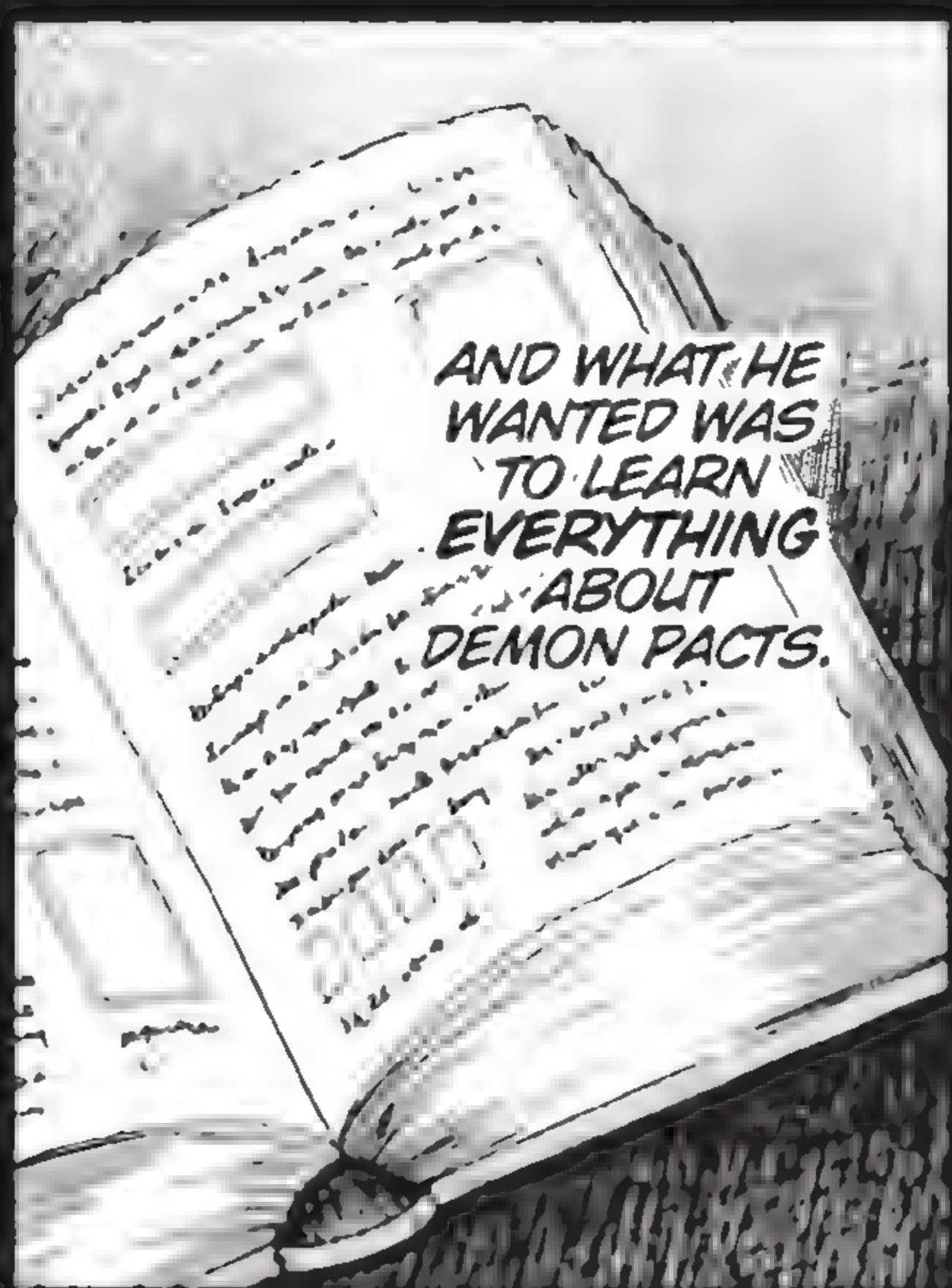


THE ONE WHO
DISCOVERED
PRAYER PACTS
AND THEIR USE
WAS NONE
OTHER THAN THE
FIRST HOUSMAN,
THE GREATEST
SCHOLAR ON
THE CONTINENT.

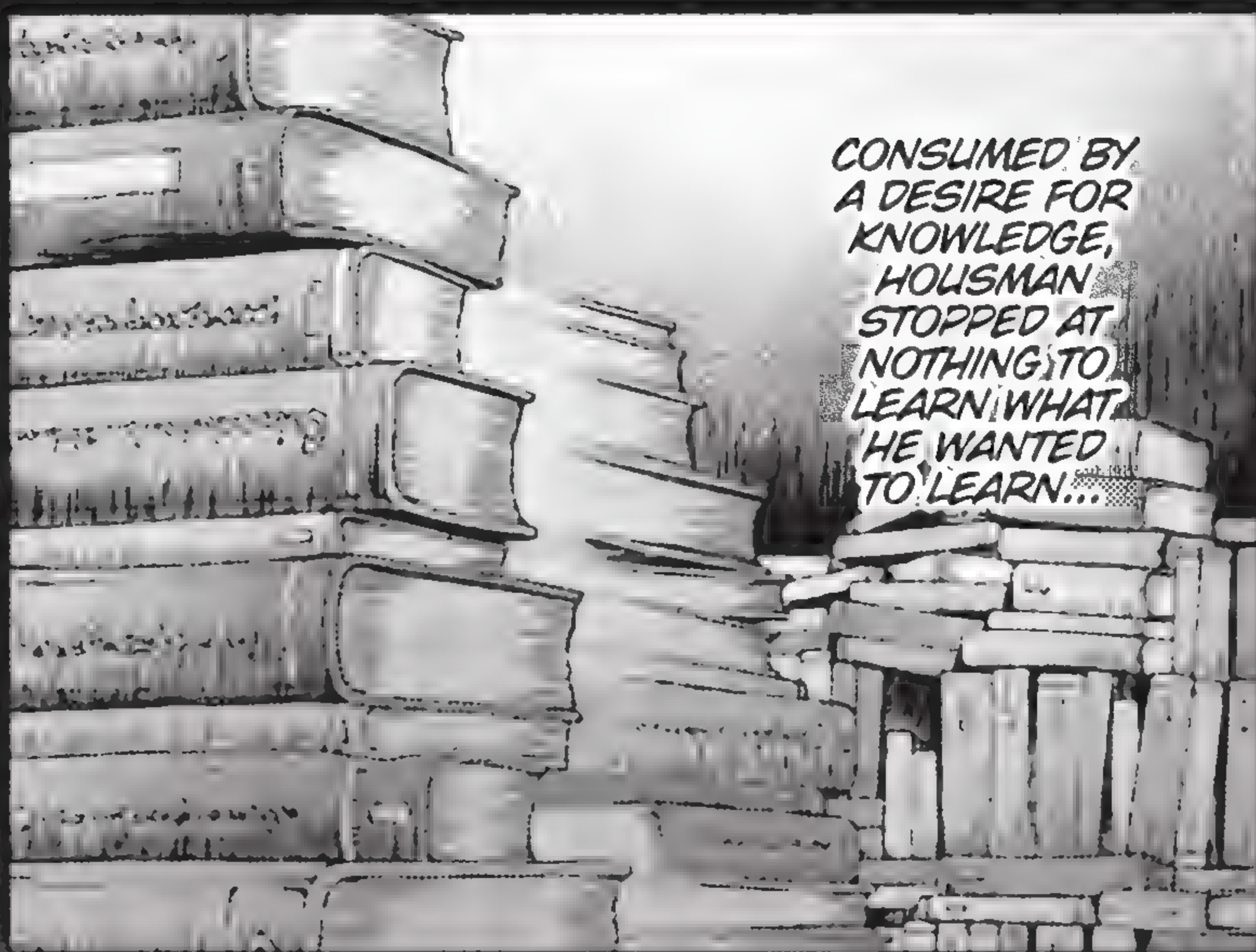


HISTORY
REMEMBERS
HIM AS ONE
OF THE
HEROES WHO
LAID THE
FOUNDATION
FOR THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY.





AND WHAT HE
WANTED WAS
TO LEARN
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
DEMON PACTS.



CONSUMED BY
A DESIRE FOR
KNOWLEDGE,
HOLISMAN
STOPPED AT
NOTHING TO
LEARN WHAT
HE WANTED
TO LEARN...



HE BOUGHT
COUNTLESS
SLAVES FROM
WHAT WAS IN
THOSE DAYS
THE CROWD
POWERS.

TO
CONDUCT HIS
EXPERIMENTS,
HE NEEDED
HUMANS AS
SUBJECTS,
LOTS OF
THEM.



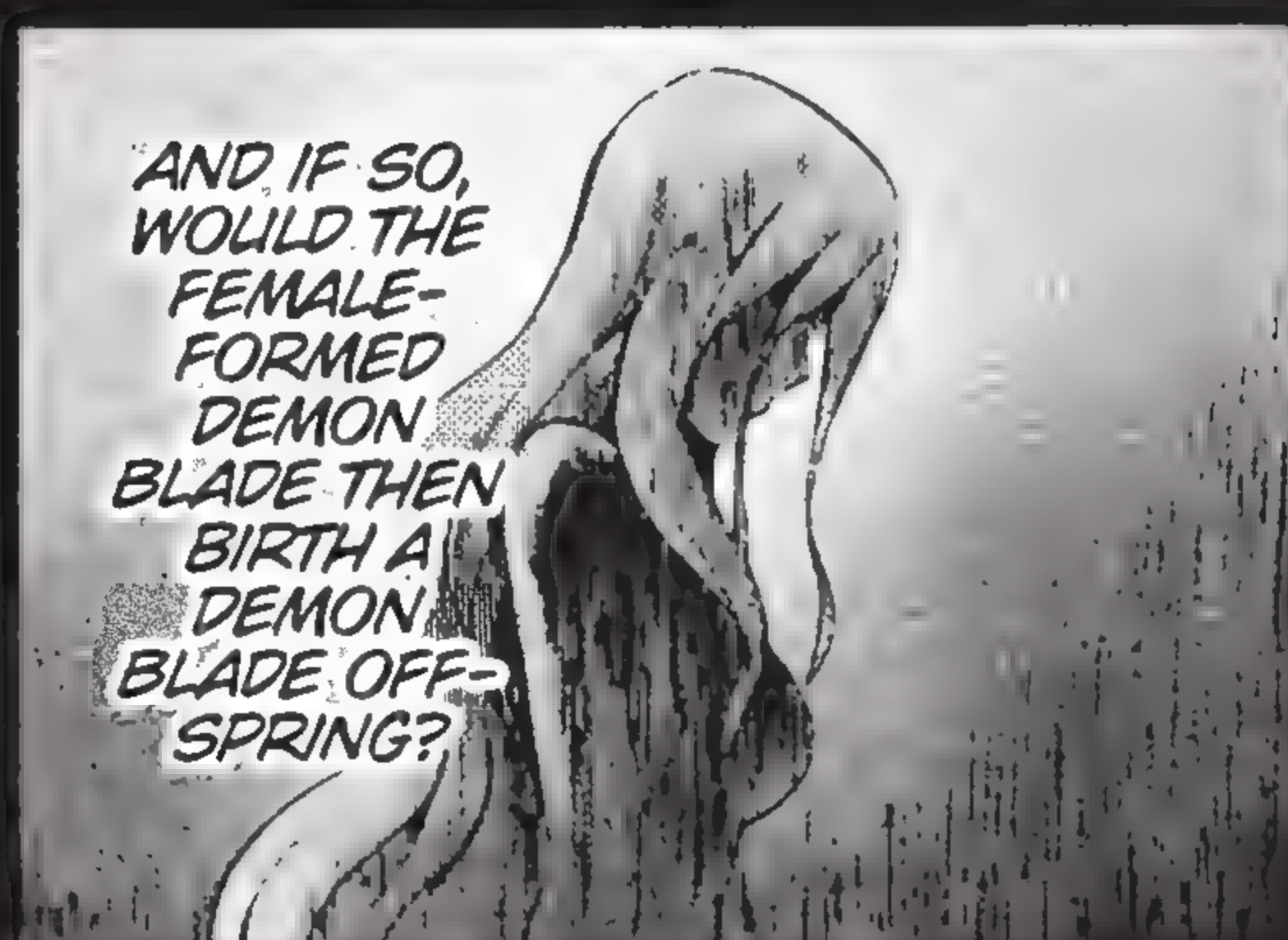
THEN HE WOULD
FORCE THEM TO
READ ALOUD THE
DEATH PHRASE
THAT THEY FOUND
WRITTEN THERE,
SUMMONING
DEMONS TO
ADD TO HIS
COLLECTION
OF INHUMAN
SAMPLES.

SUBDUING
HIS SUBJECTS
WITH AN
ANESTHETIC
PRAYER PACT,
HE WOULD
USE SURGICAL
TECHNIQUES
TO OPEN
THEIR CHEST
CAVITIES.

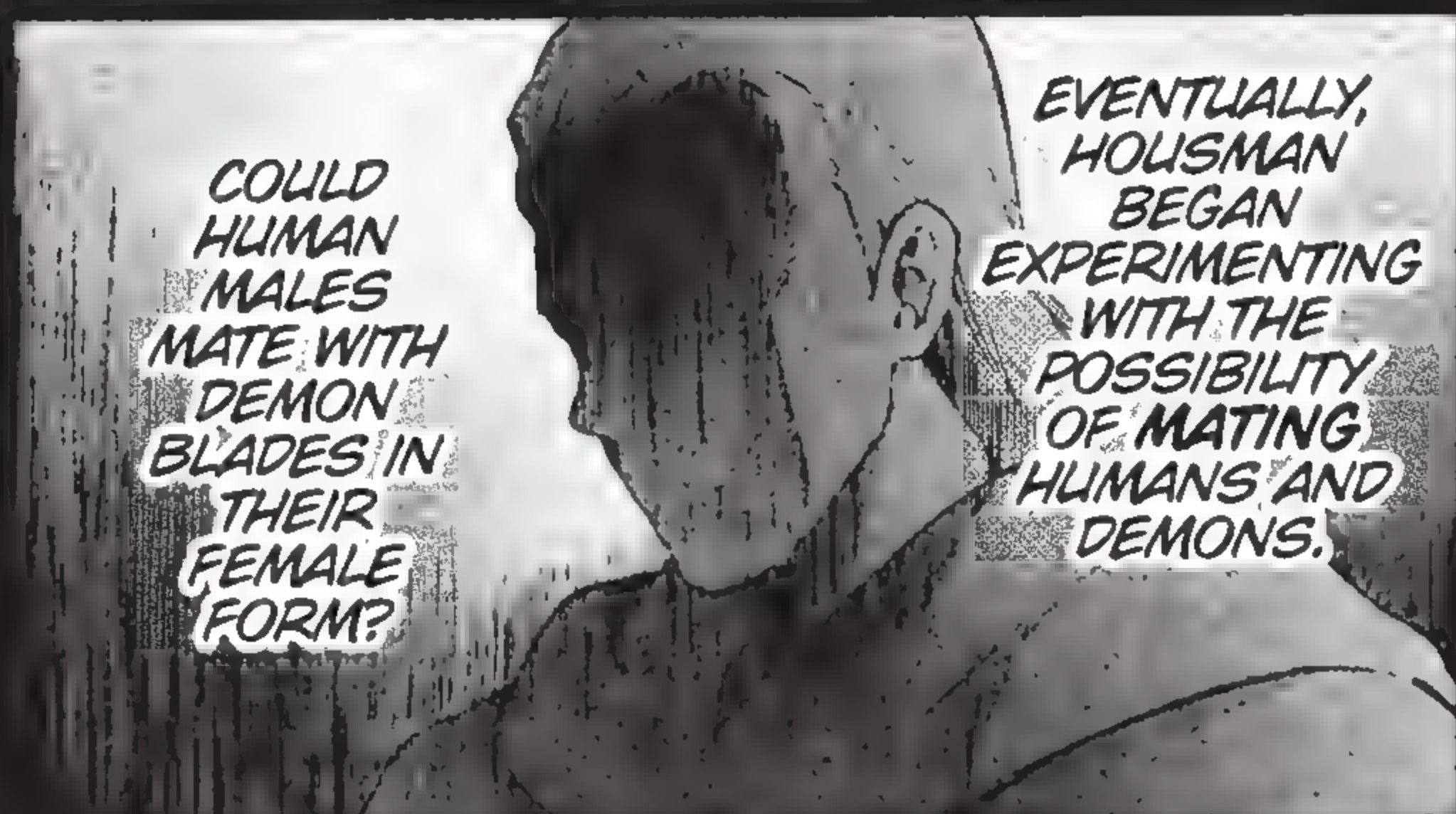


THE PEOPLE OF THREE DIFFERENT NATIONS CELEBRATED THE ADVENT OF A MAGIC THAT TRANSFORMED THEIR LIVES FOR THE BETTER, ALL UNKNOWING OF THE TERRIBLE SACRIFICES THAT WENT INTO ITS DISCOVERY!

IN FACT, HIS MOST LAUDED DISCOVERY, THE PRAYER PACT, WAS PRACTICALLY AN ACCIDENT. HE STUMBLED ACROSS THIS USE FOR SPIRIT ESSENCE WHILE RESEARCHING ITS FUNCTION IN FORMING DEMON PACTS.

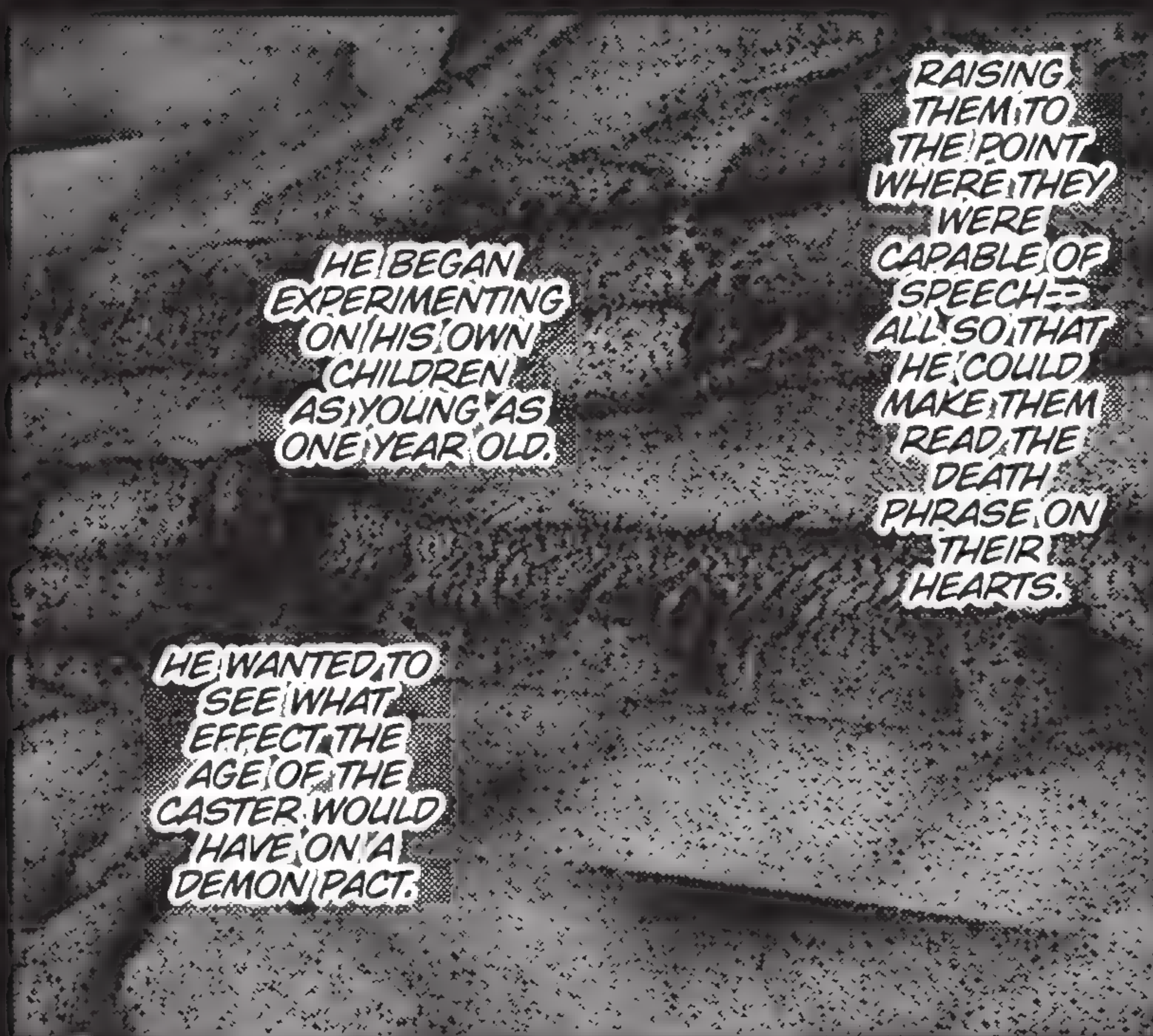


AND IF SO, WOULD THE FEMALE-FORMED DEMON BLADE THEN BIRTH A DEMON BLADE OFF-SPRING?



COULD HUMAN MALES MATE WITH DEMON BLADES IN THEIR FEMALE FORM?

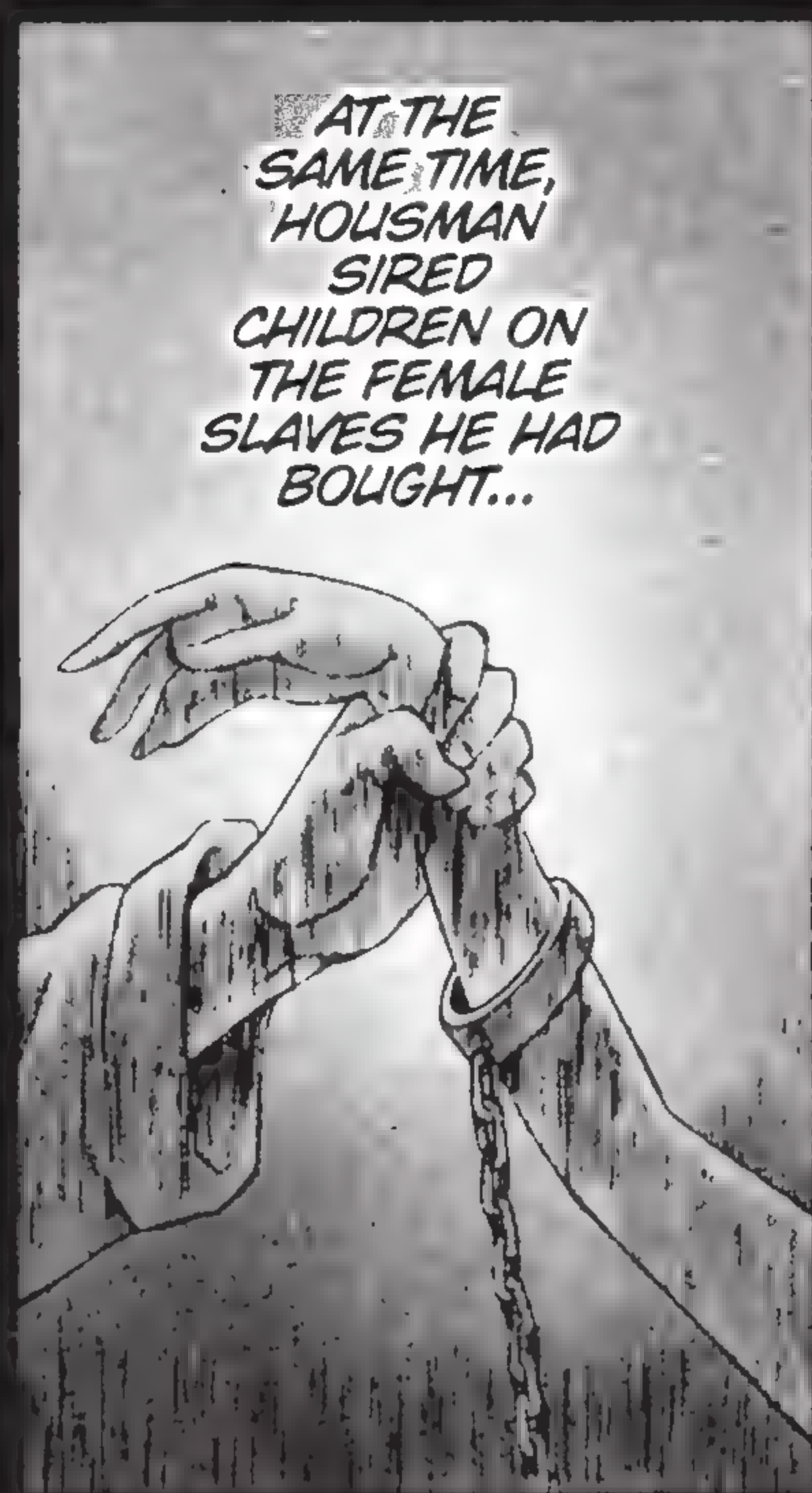
EVENTUALLY, HOLISMAN BEGAN EXPERIMENTING WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MATING HUMANS AND DEMONS.



HE BEGAN EXPERIMENTING ON HIS OWN CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS ONE YEAR OLD.

HE WANTED TO SEE WHAT EFFECT THE AGE OF THE CASTER WOULD HAVE ON A DEMON PACT.

RAISING THEM TO THE POINT WHERE THEY WERE CAPABLE OF SPEECH— ALL SO THAT HE COULD MAKE THEM READ THE DEATH PHRASE ON THEIR HEARTS.



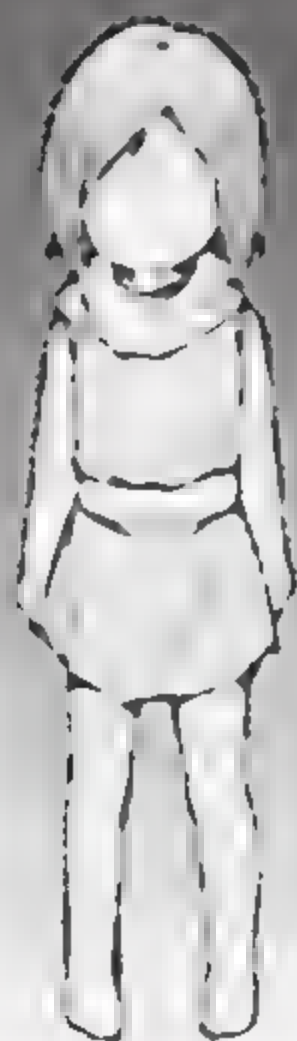
AT THE SAME TIME, HOLISMAN SIRED CHILDREN ON THE FEMALE SLAVES HE HAD BOUGHT...

THOUGH
THERE
WAS ONE
NOTABLE
SUCCESS.

ALMOST
ALL OF HIS
EXPERIMENTS
ENDED IN
FAILURE...



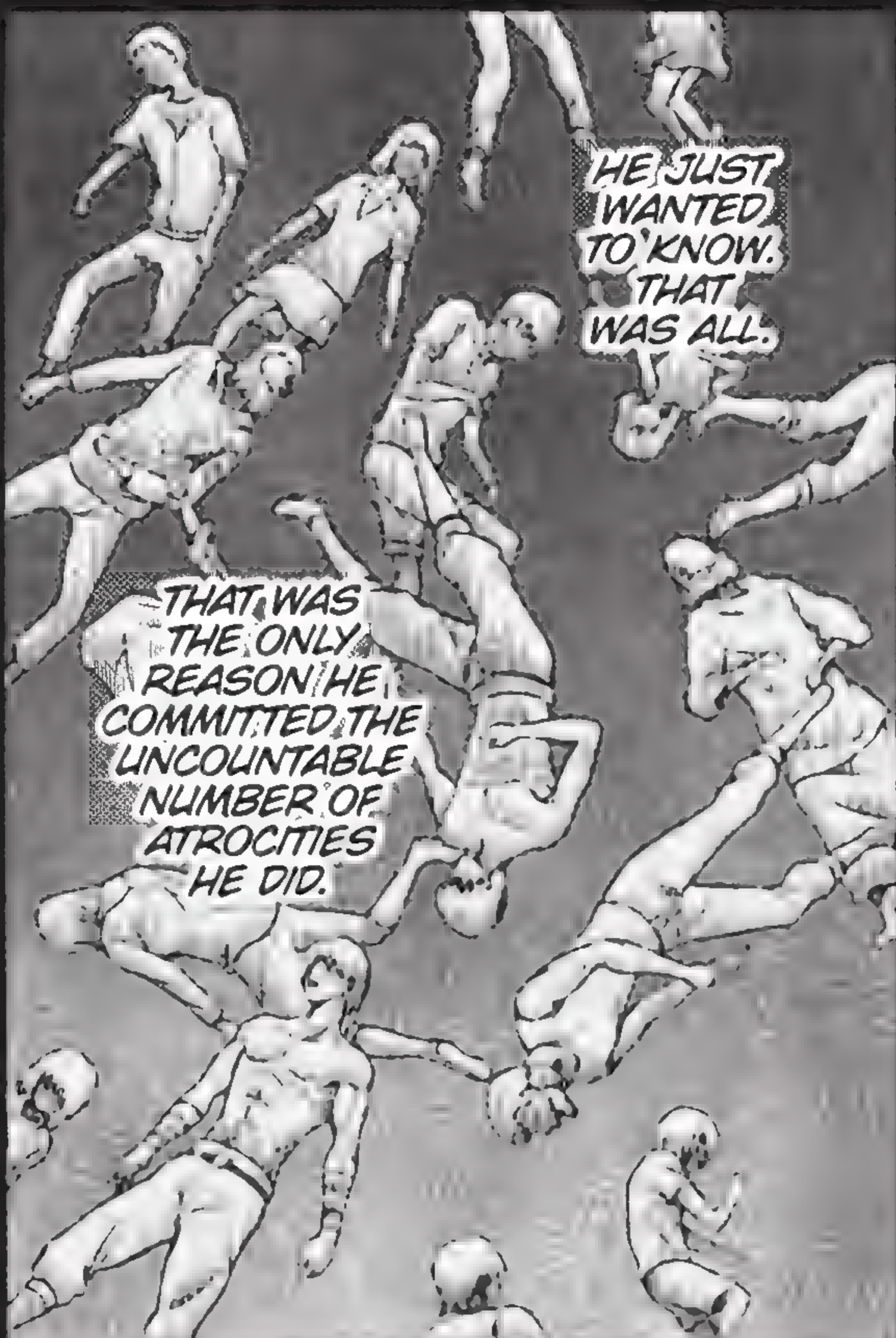
HE HAD
HER USE
DEMON
PACTS
TWICE.



A FOUR
YEAR OLD
GIRL.

HE JUST
WANTED
TO KNOW.
THAT
WAS ALL.

THAT WAS
THE ONLY
REASON HE
COMMITTED THE
UNCOUNTABLE
NUMBER OF
ATROCITIES
HE DID.



THE SECOND
TIME, THE GIRL
COULD NOT
CONTROL THE
PROCESS AND
WOUND UP
OFFERING THE
REMAINDER OF
HER BODY.

THE RESULT
WAS A
DEMON
WITH A
HUMAN
FORM.

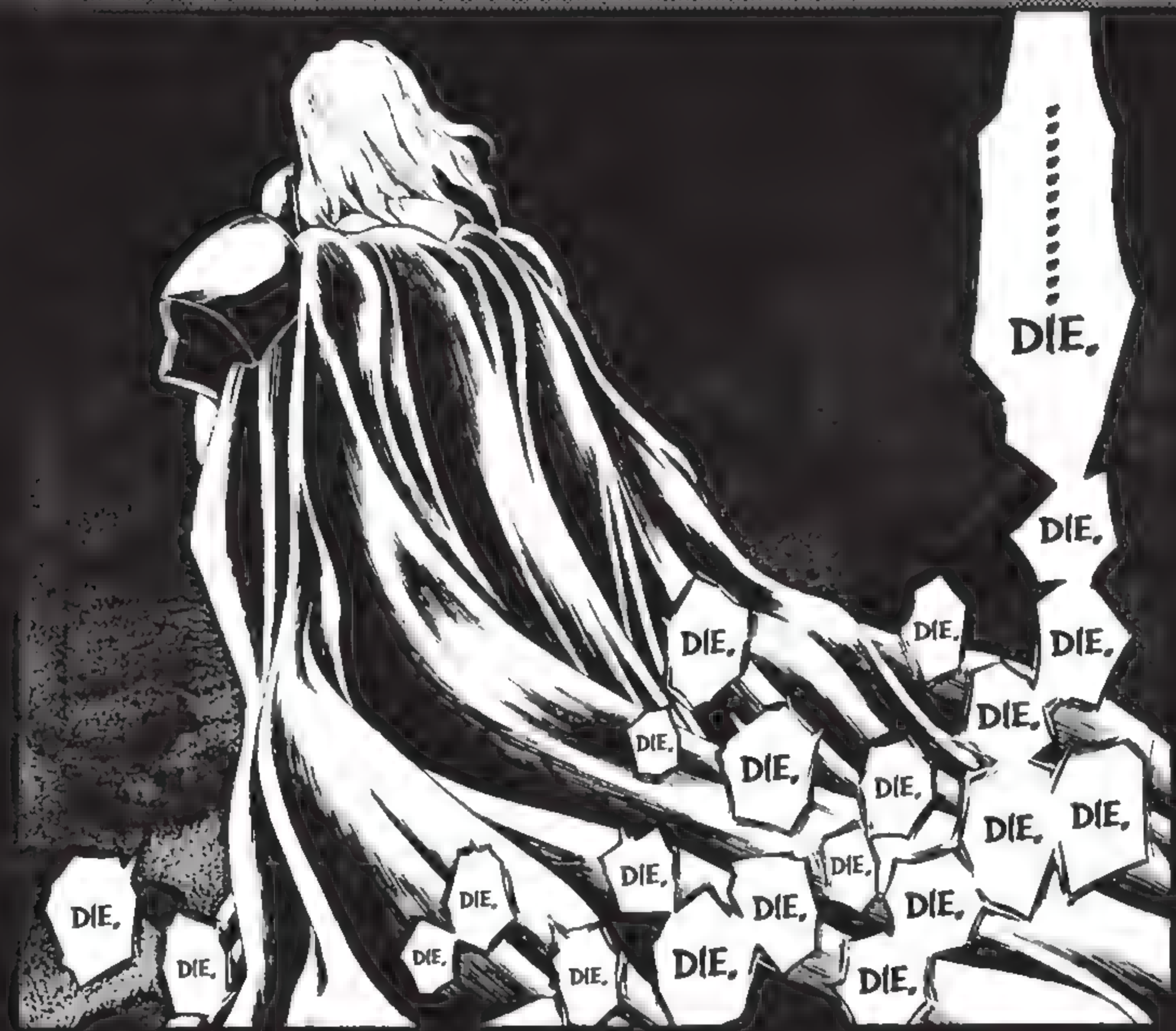
FOR THE FIRST,
SHE OFFERED
AN ARM TO
CREATE A SINGLE
DEMON BLADE--
A FLAMBERGE.



THANKS TO HIS
DEMON BLOOD,
HE GREW
QUICKLY AND
WAS BOTH
INTELLIGENT
AND
ATHLETICALLY
TALENTED.

BUT AS THE
OFFSPRING OF
TWO DIFFERENT
RACES, HE WAS
INFERTILE.
HE WOULD
NEVER BE
ABLE TO HAVE
CHILDREN OF
HIS OWN.

THAT DEMON
WAS MATED
TO A SLAVE,
AND THE
CHILD
BORN WAS
SIEGFRIED.

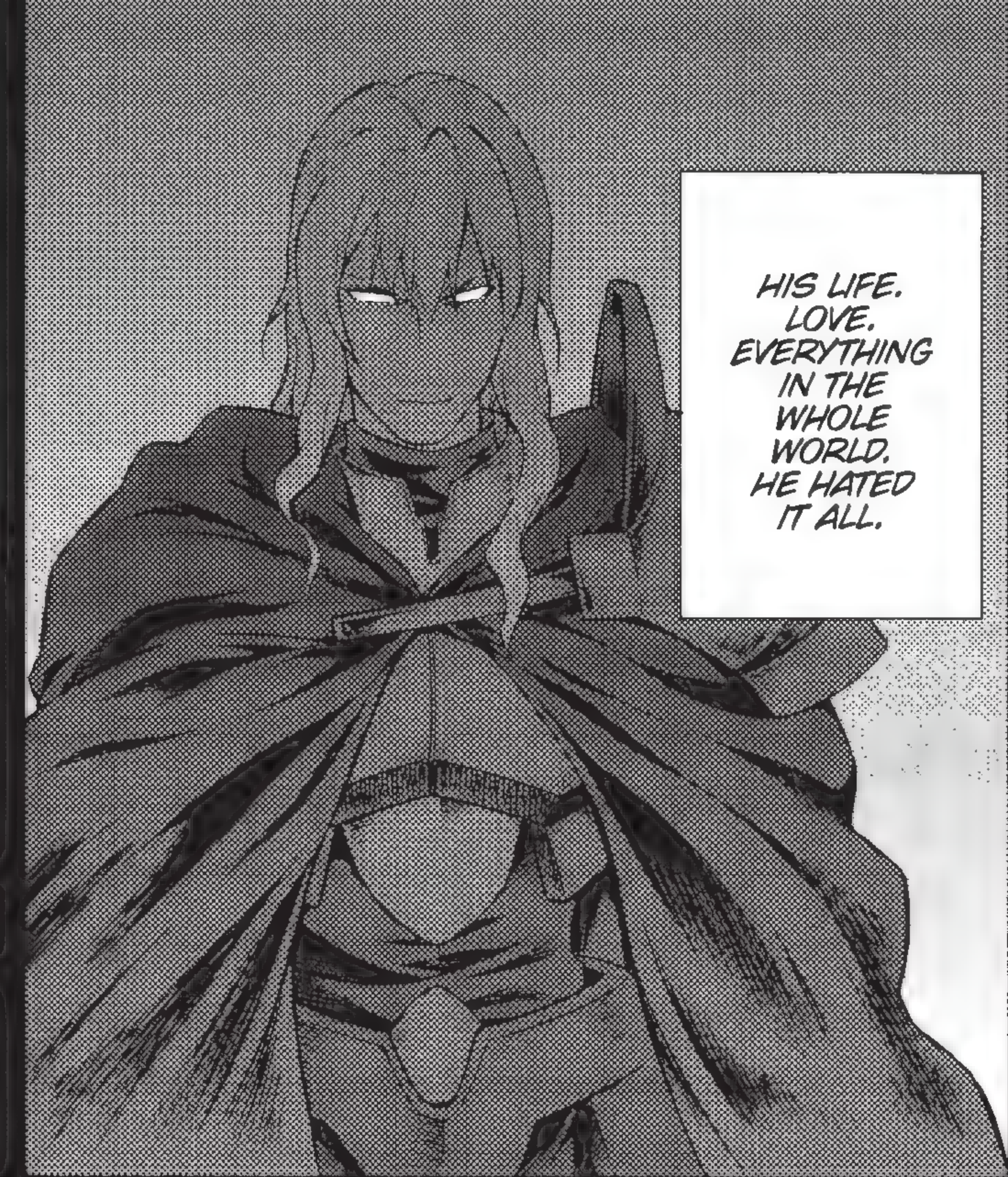


ALL
SIEGFRIED
KNEW
WAS
HATE.

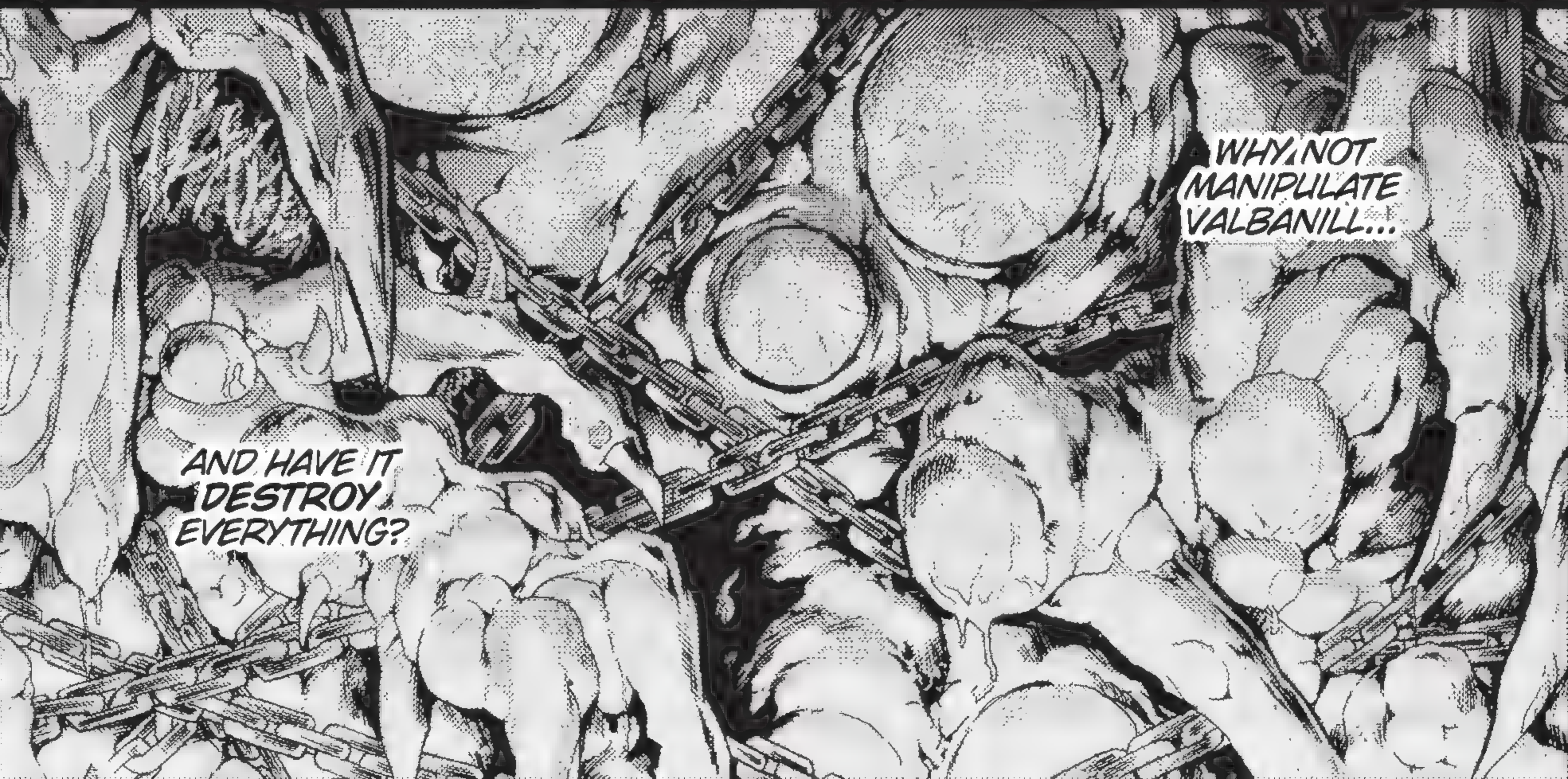




SO
SIEGFRIED
THOUGHT...



HIS LIFE.
LOVE.
EVERYTHING
IN THE
WHOLE
WORLD.
HE HATED
IT ALL.



WHY NOT
MANIPULATE
VALBANILL...

AND HAVE IT
DESTROY
EVERYTHING?

The Sacred  Blacksmith

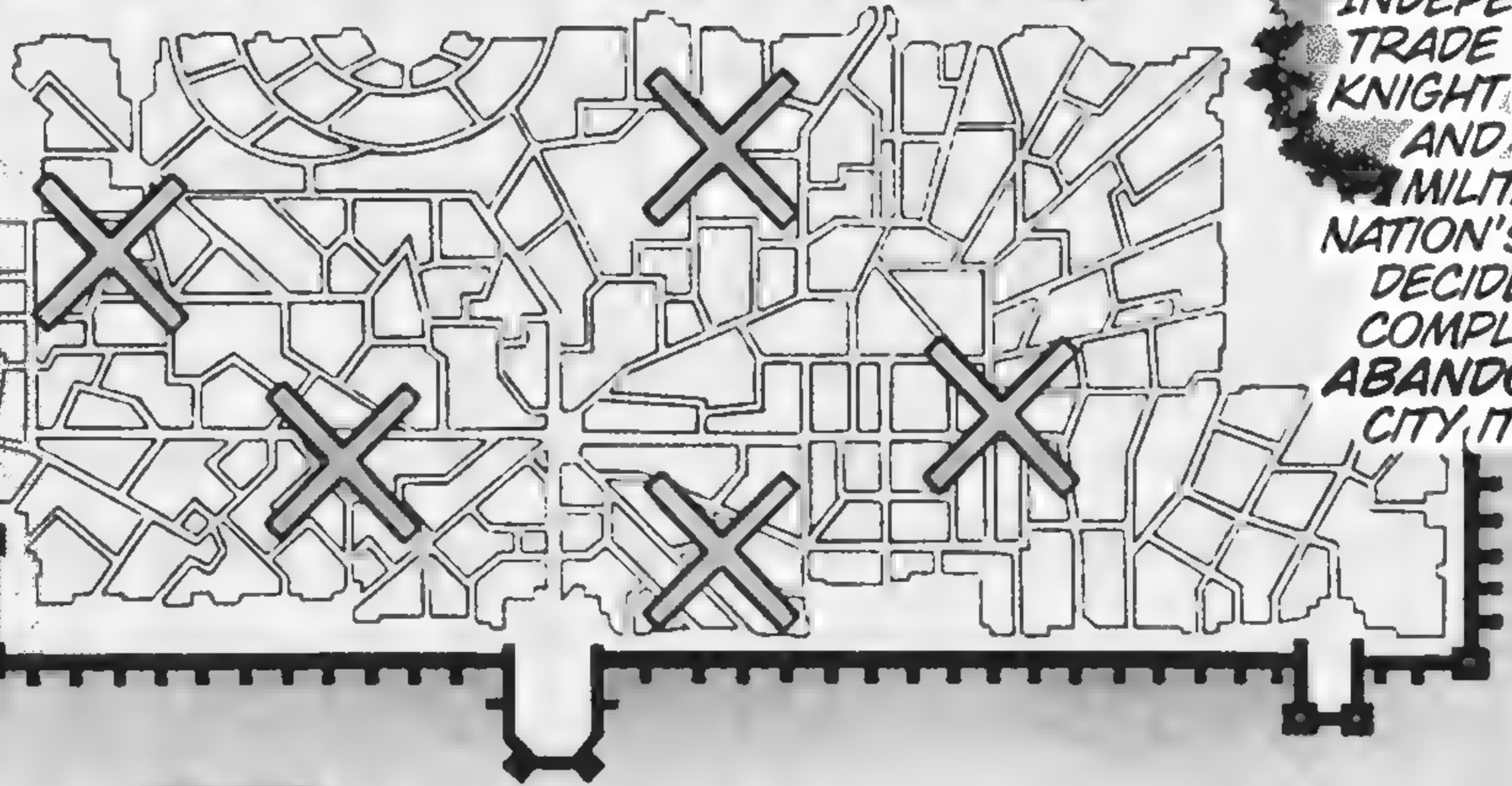
聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

INSTEAD, THEY LAID DOZENS UPON DOZENS OF BOOBY TRAPS IN IT, AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT CENDRILLON FOREST. THEIR MAIN FORCE, THEY DEPLOYED ON THE SLOPES OF BLAIR VOLCANO ITSELF.

THE INDEPENDENT TRADE CITY'S KNIGHT CORPS AND THE MILITANT NATION'S ARMY DECIDED TO COMPLETELY ABANDON THE CITY ITSELF.



Chapter

56

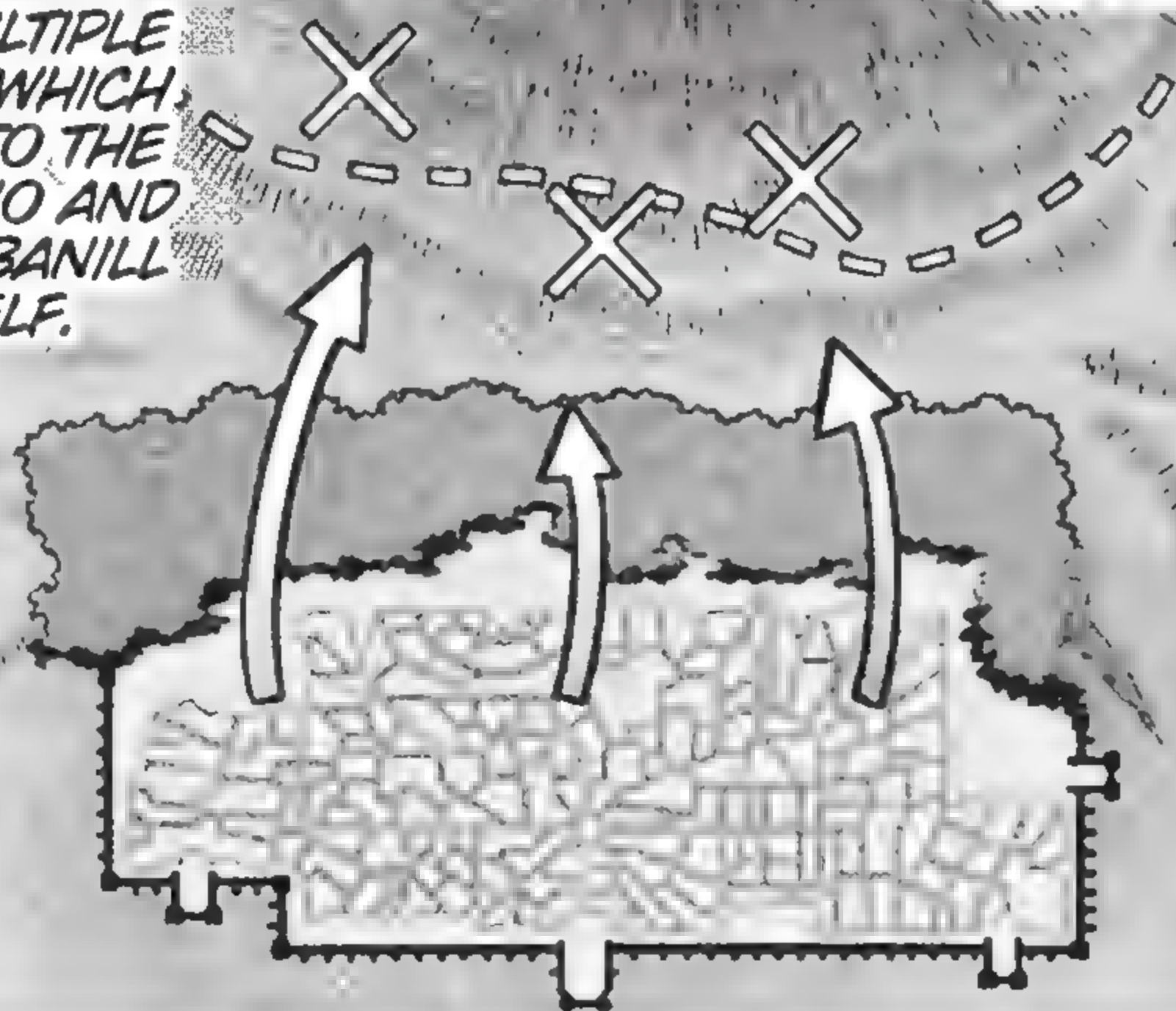
Valbariff

(Part 4)

FWOOO
ALL ALONG THE MOUNTAIN SLOPES, THEY BUILT CAMPS, STONE WALLS, BARRICADES, AND FORTIFICATIONS.

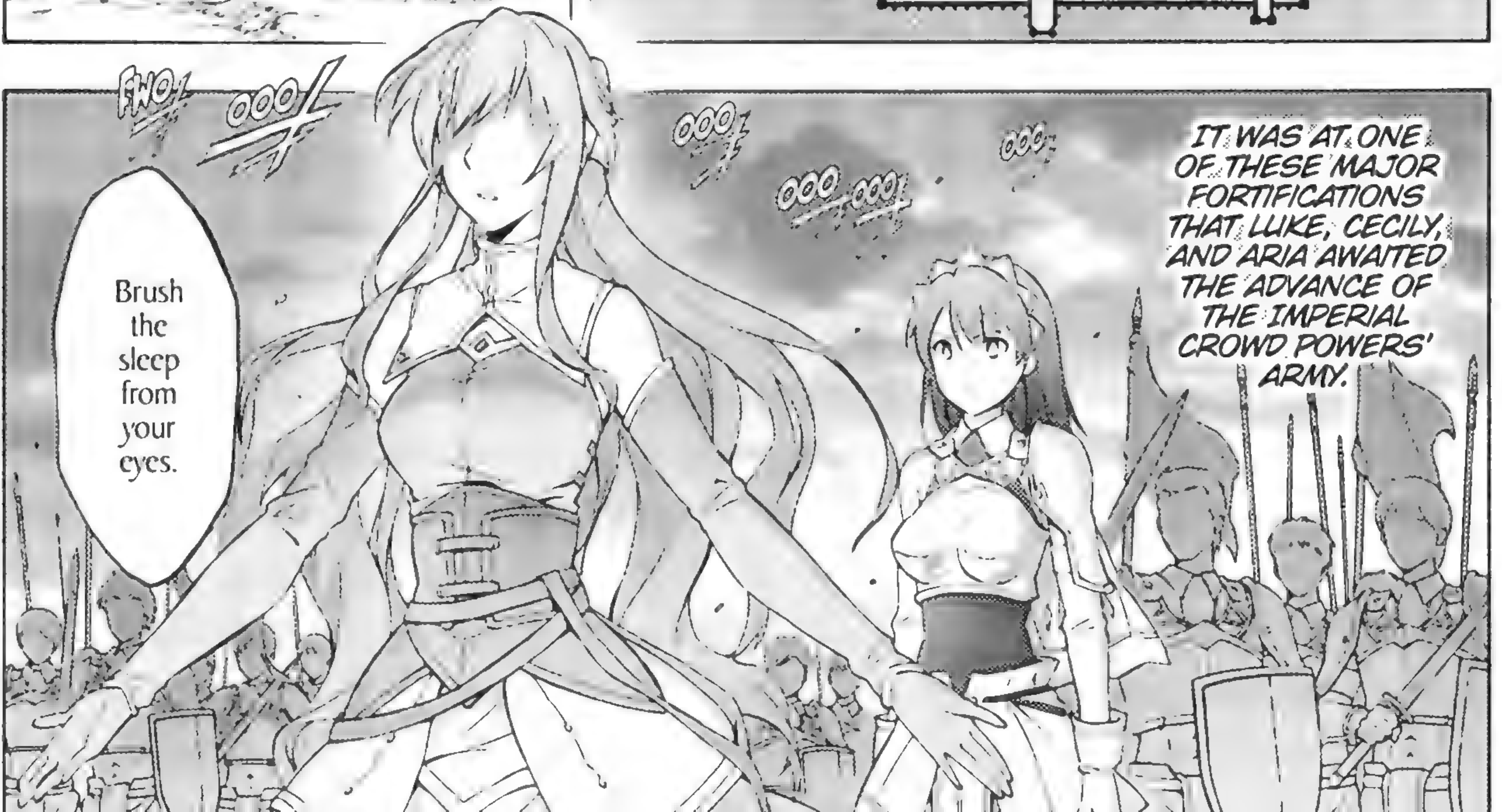
THEIR PLAN WAS TO USE THEIR FORCES TO GUARD THE MULTIPLE CAVES WHICH LED INTO THE VOLCANO AND TO VALBANILL ITSELF.

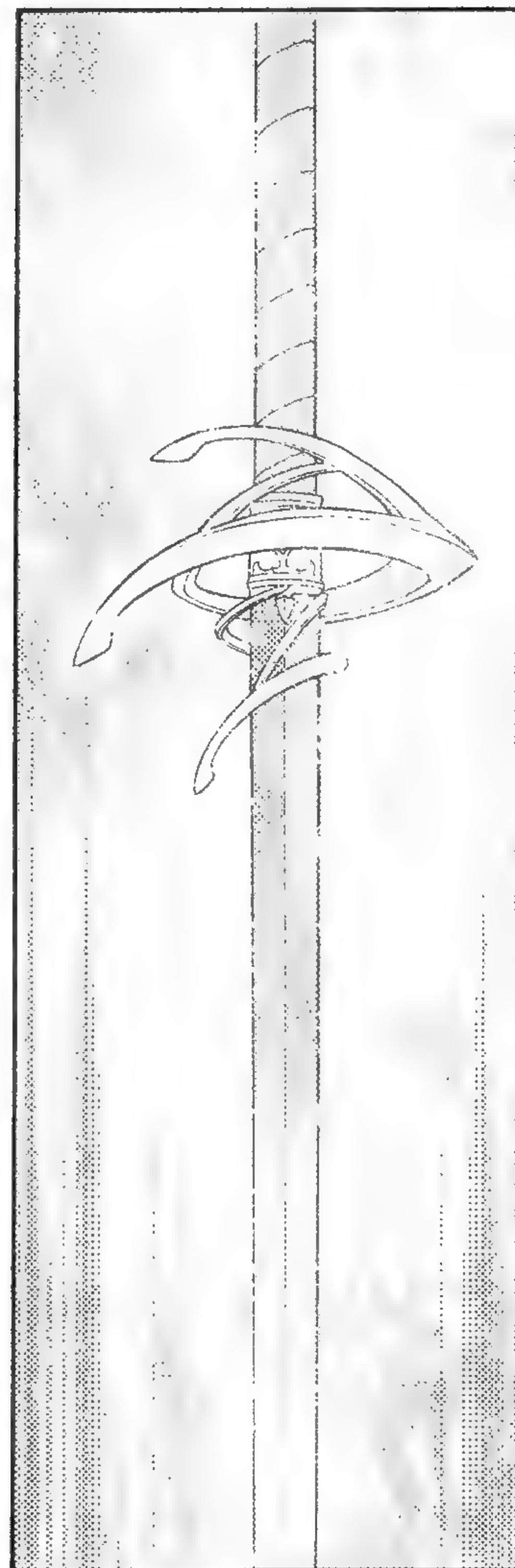
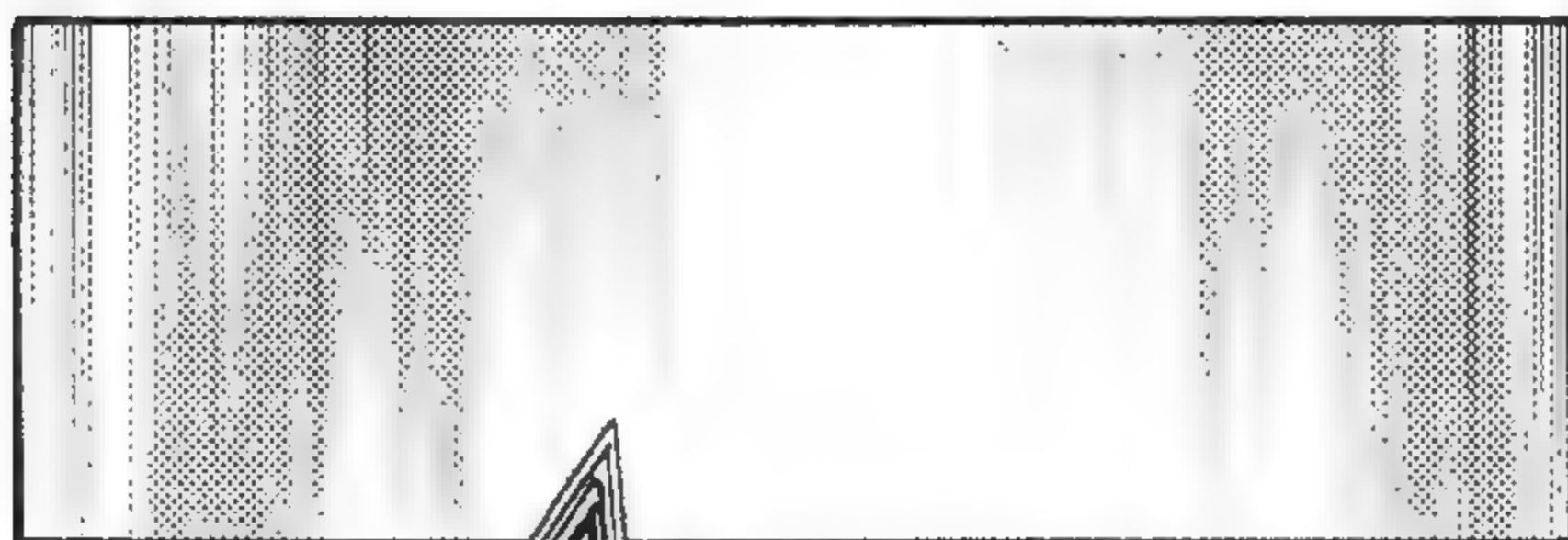
CONTROLLING THE HIGH GROUND IS A BASIC TENANT OF WARTIME STRATEGY.



FWO! OOO!
Brush the sleep from your eyes.

OOO!
OOO OOO!
OOO
IT WAS AT ONE OF THESE MAJOR FORTIFICATIONS THAT LUKE, CECILY, AND ARIA AWAITED THE ADVANCE OF THE IMPERIAL CROWD POWERS' ARMY.





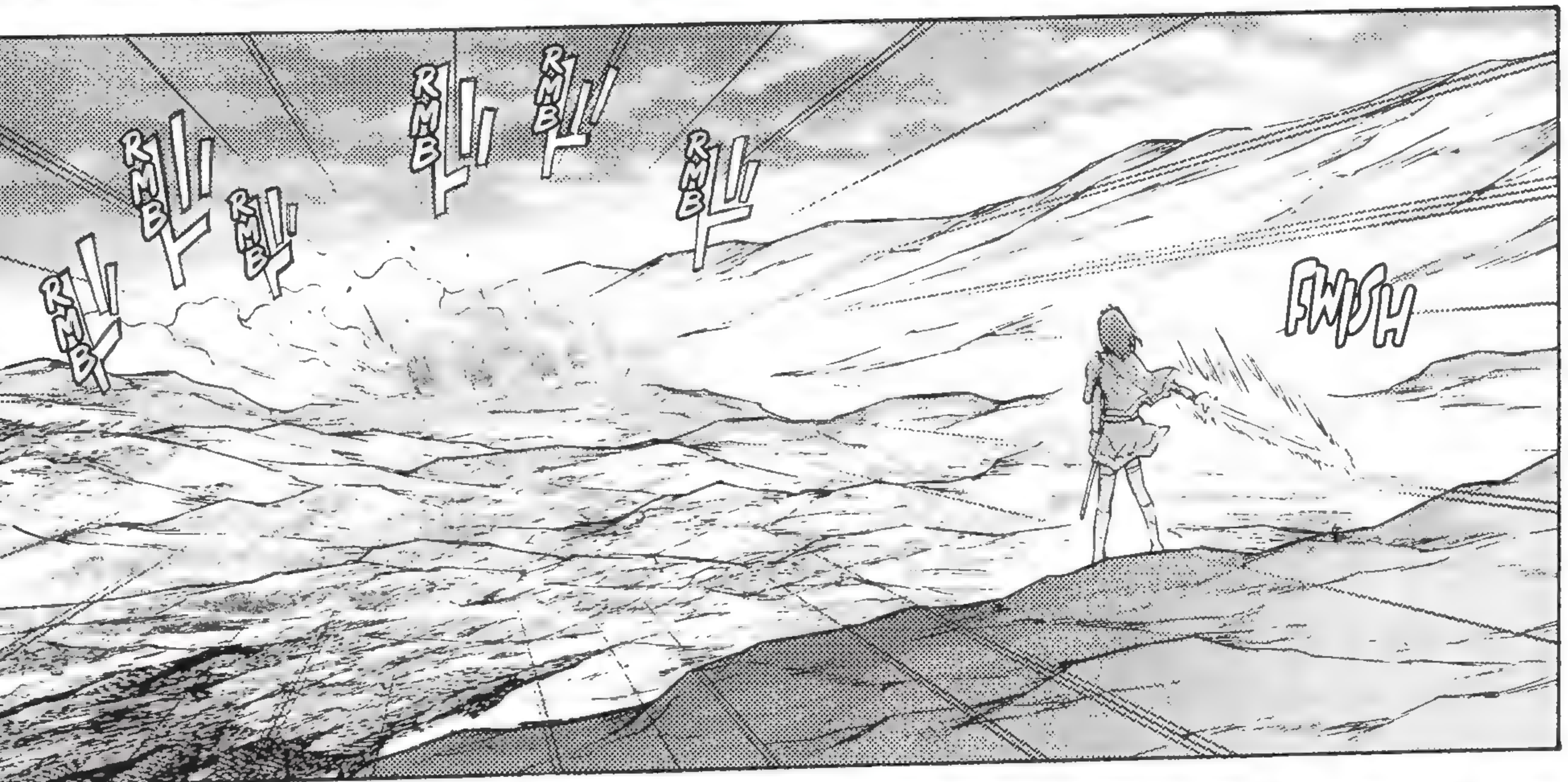


THE
SACRED
BLADE!!

SO
THAT'S...

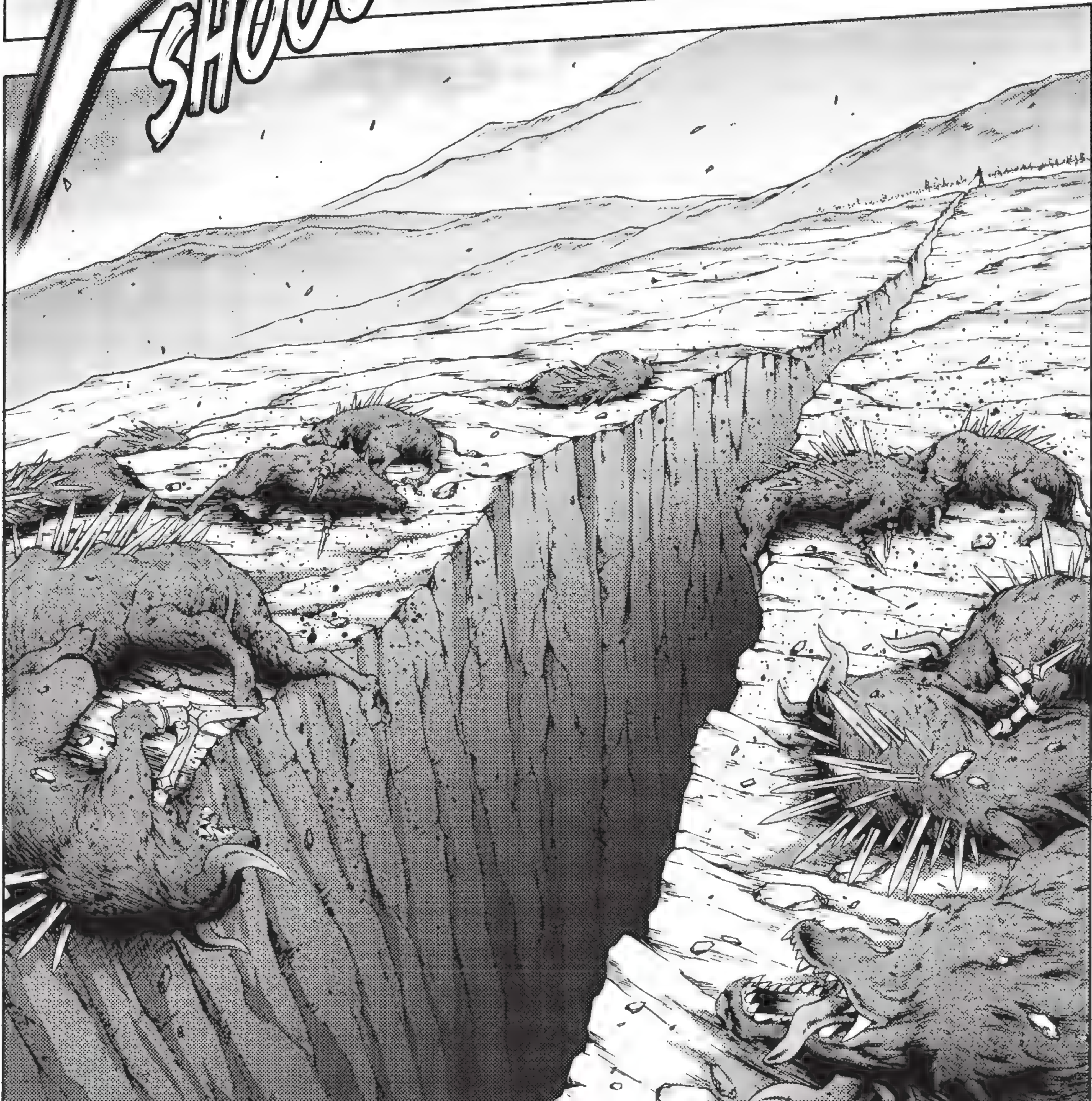
WOW!

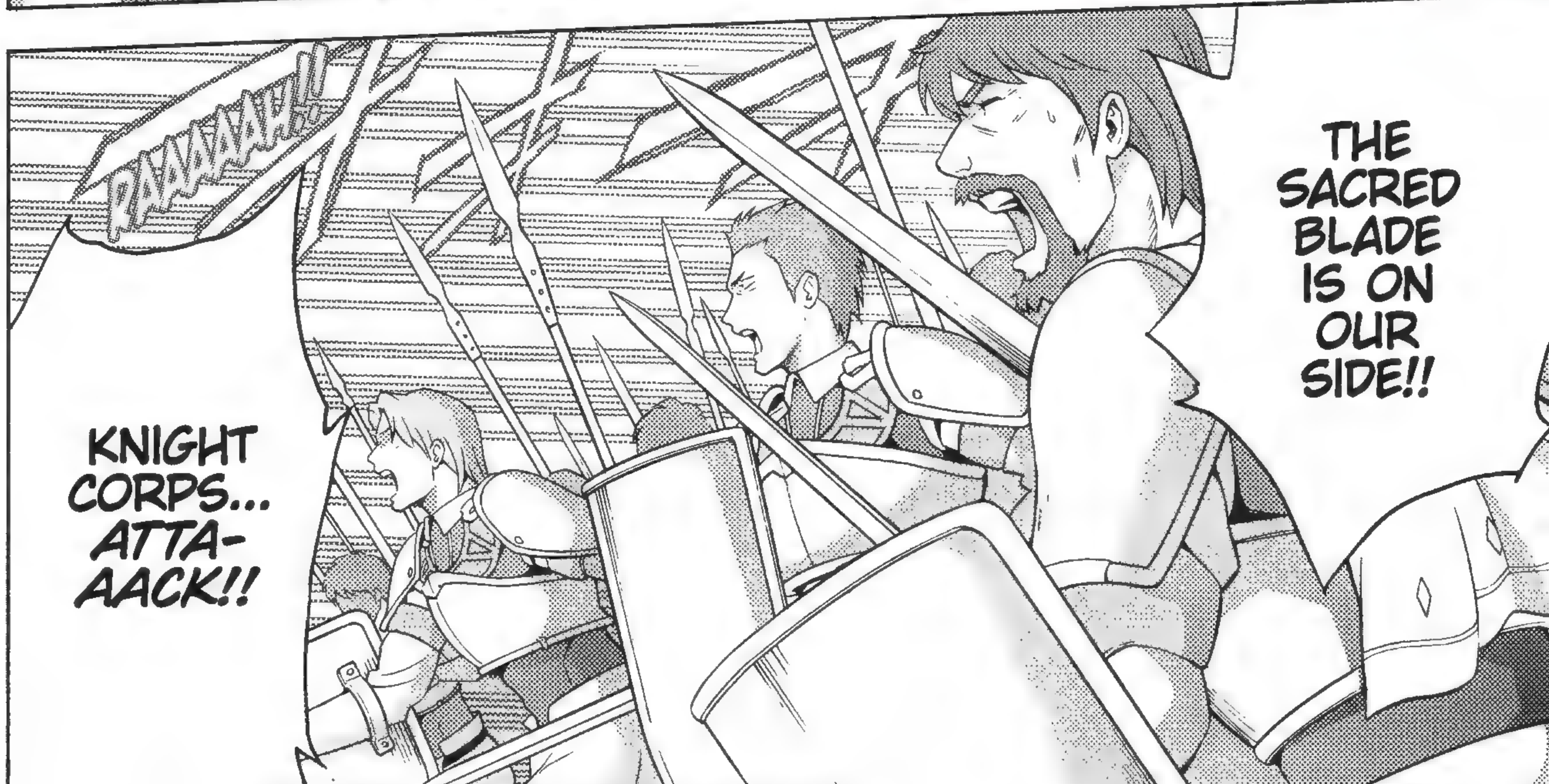
ooo!!





SHOOOON









I CAN
TELL
NOW...

THAT EVEN
THOUGH
SHE WAS
REFORGED,
ARIA IS
STILL ARIA.

THESE
ARE
HAPPY
TEARS.



THE
TRUTH IS
OBVIOUS
AT A
GLANCE.

I MEAN,
JUST LOOK
AT HER.
SHE AND
MISS CECILY
ARE IN
PERFECT
HARMONY.

The Sacred  Blacksmith

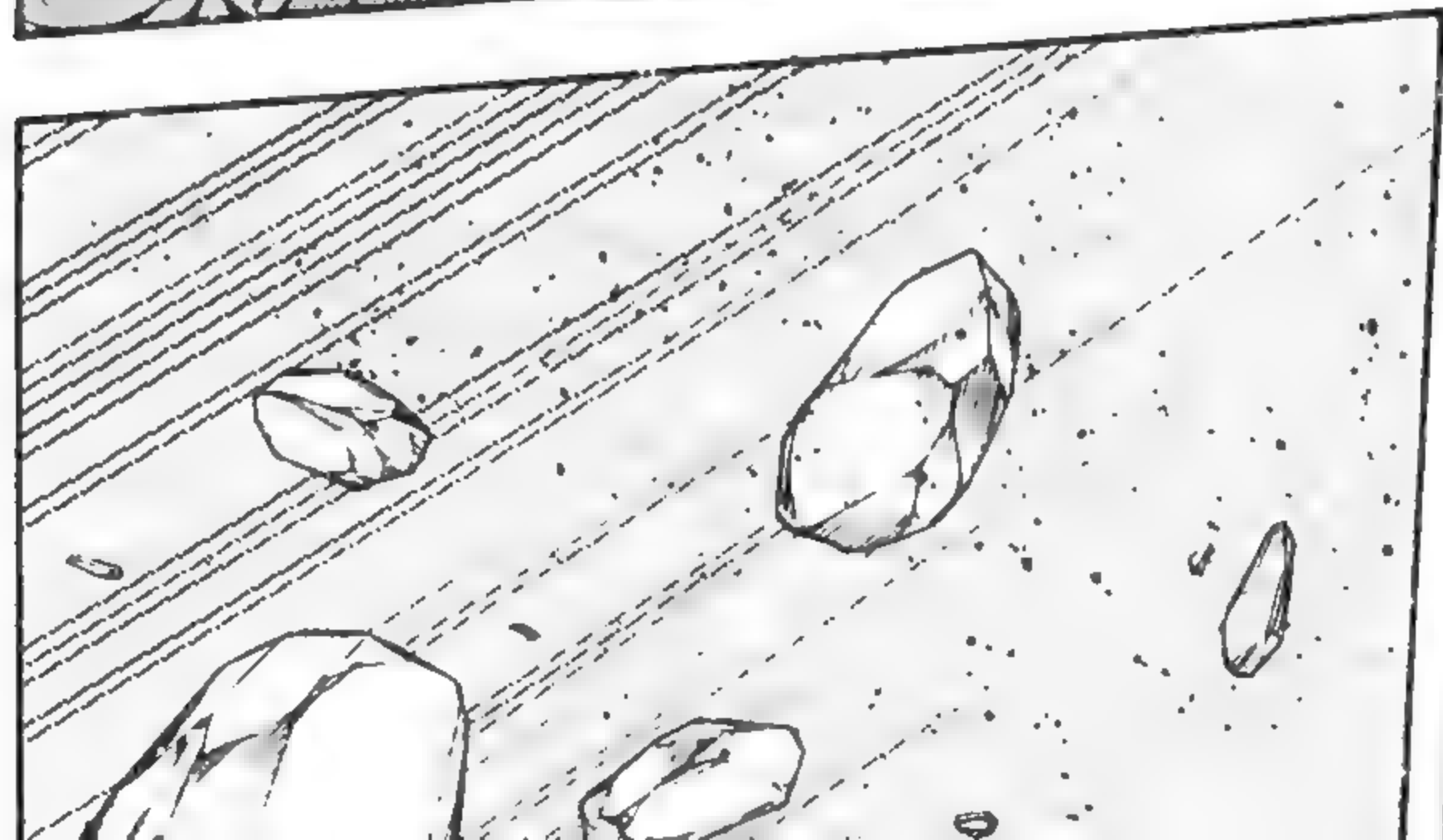
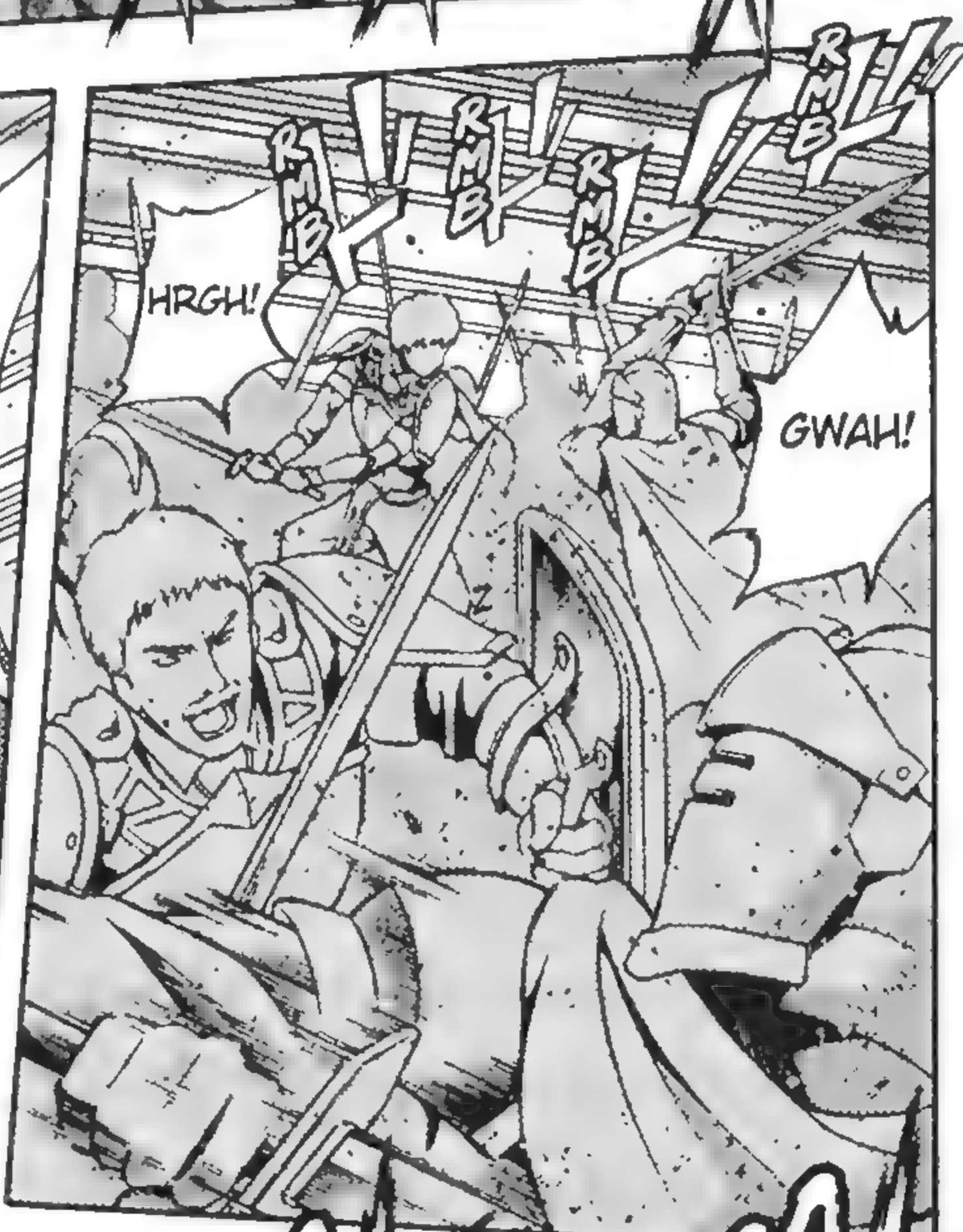
聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



THE BATTLE
ON THE
SLOPES
OF BLAIR
VOLCANO
RAGED ON,
GROWING
MORE AND
MORE
INTENSE.



DECIDING
TO PUT AN
END TO
THEIR
FORTY-FIVE
YEAR
STALEMATE.

IN THE
MIDST OF THE
CARNAGE,
TWO
SURVIVORS
OF THE
PREVIOUS
GREAT
WAR CAME
TOGETHER...

HYO0000

A ONE-
ON-ONE
DUEL?
HOW
INTERESTING.

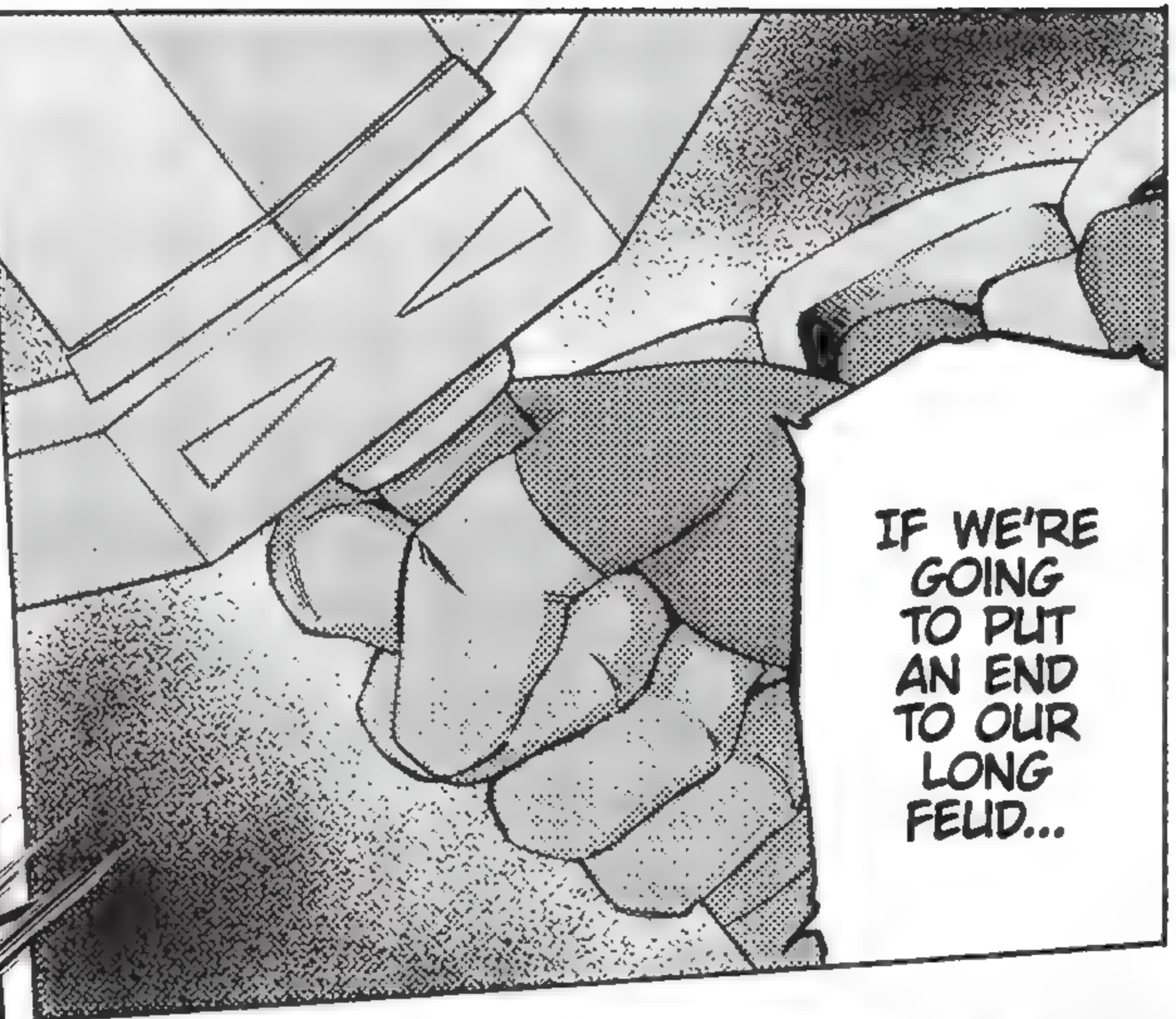
YOU
KNOW
IT AS
WELL
AS I
DO.

THIS IS
THE WAY
IT HAS
TO BE,
ARTHUR.

FWOOO



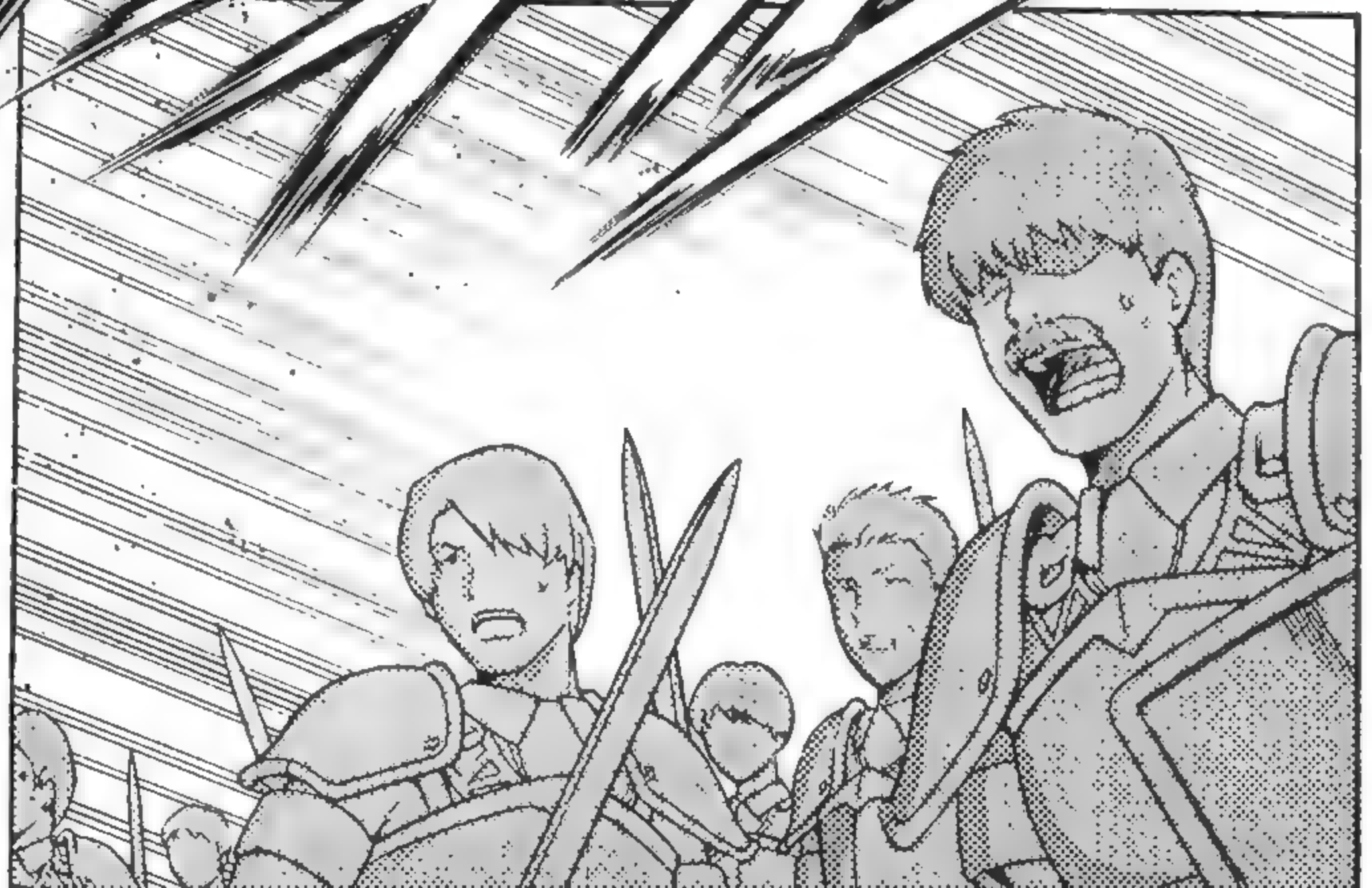
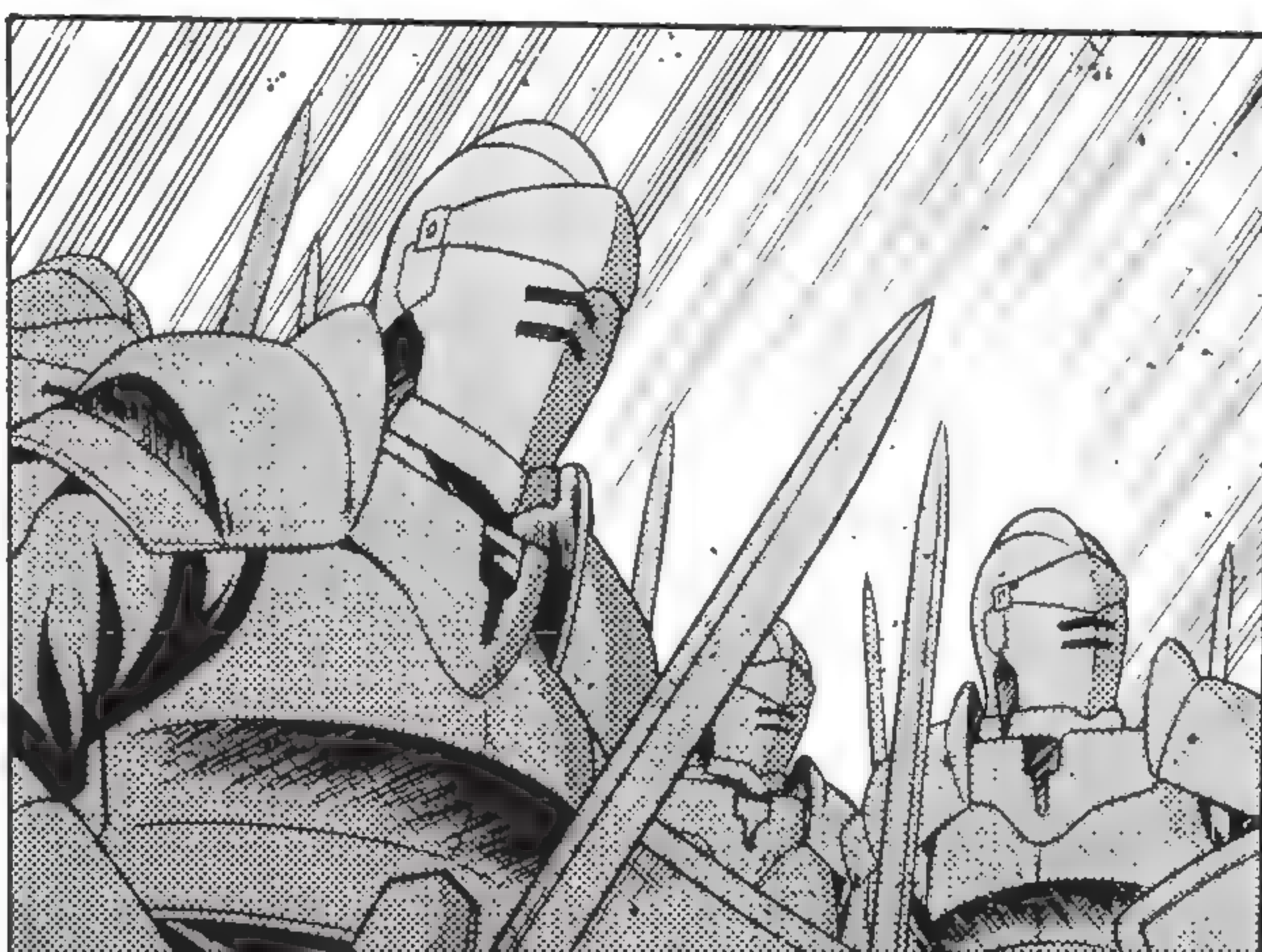
YOU
KNOW
THERE'S
NO
BETTER
TIME
THAN
**HERE
AND
NOW!**

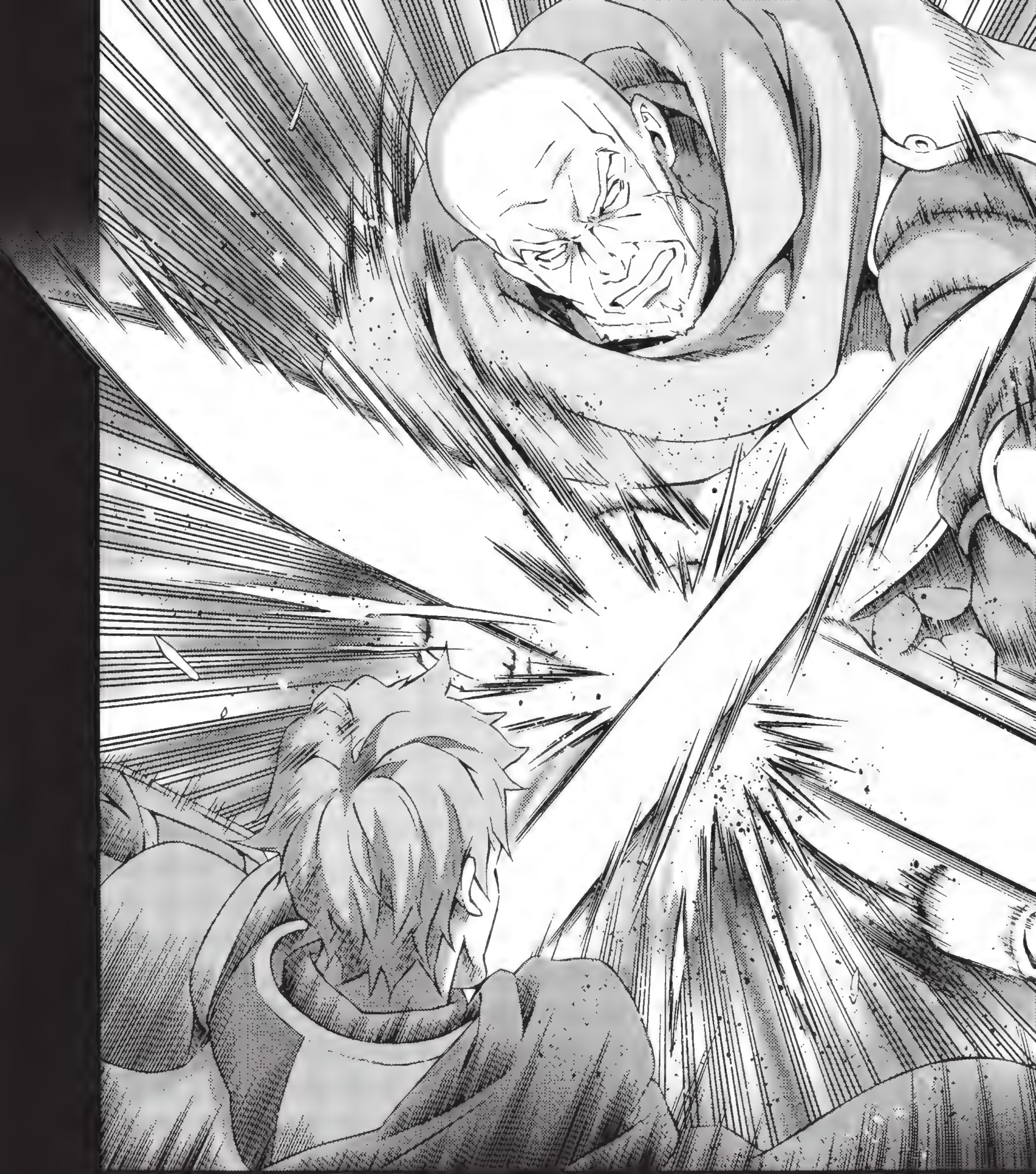


IF WE'RE
GOING
TO PUT
AN END
TO OUR
LONG
FEUD...



KLAAAANG





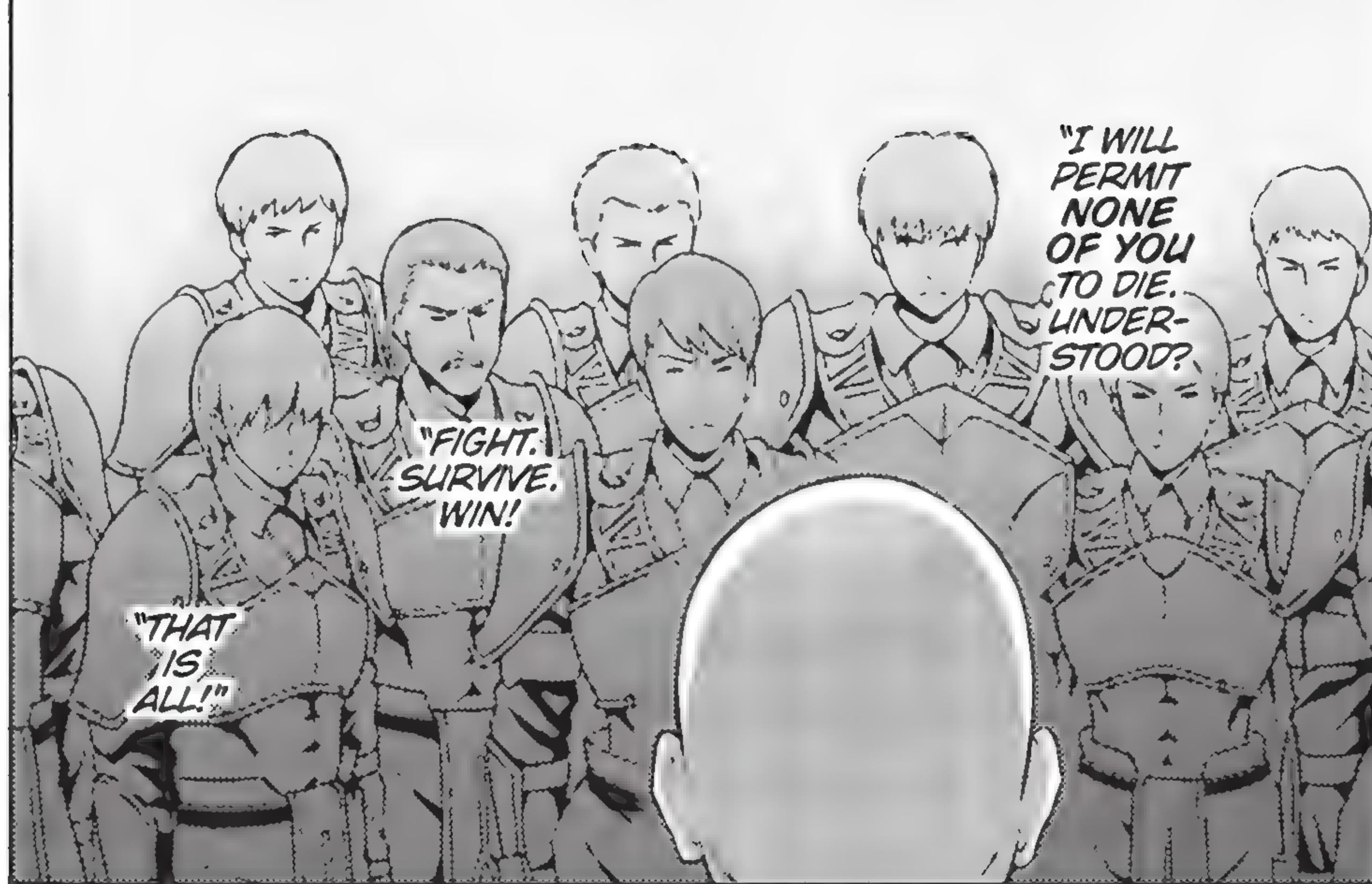
Chapter

57

Valbarill

(Part 5)





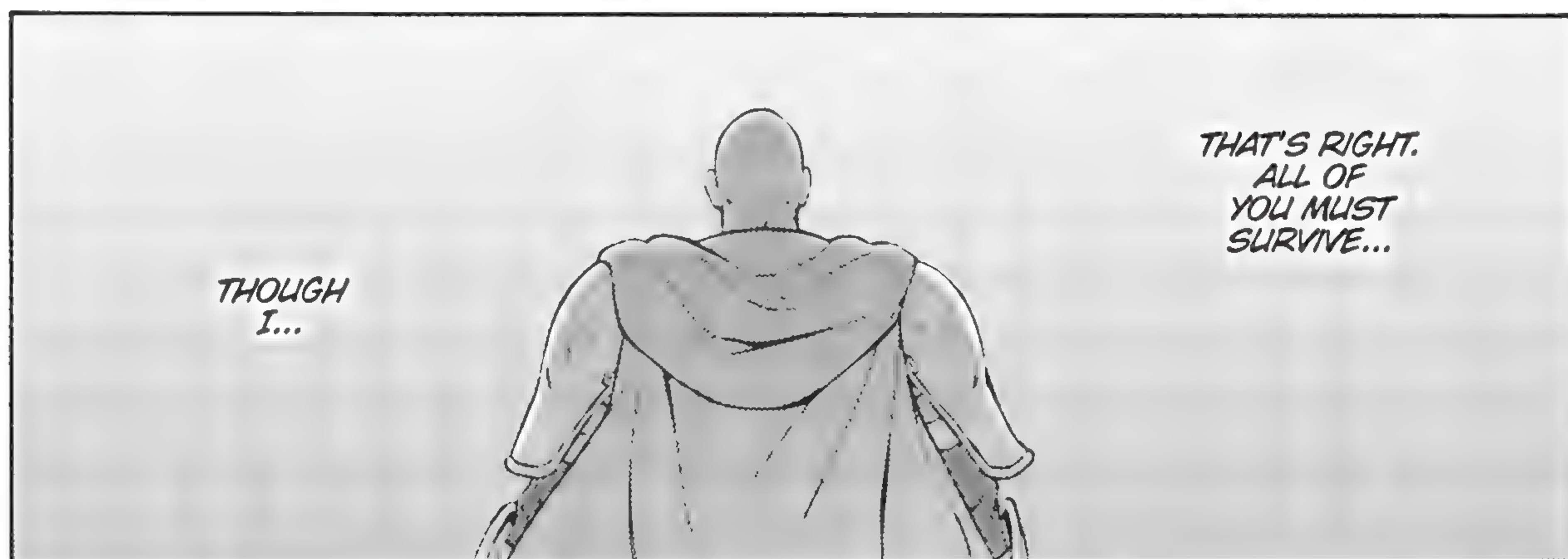
"I WILL
PERMIT
NONE
OF YOU
TO DIE.
UNDER-
STOOD?"

"FIGHT.
SURVIVE.
WIN!"

"THAT
IS
ALL!"

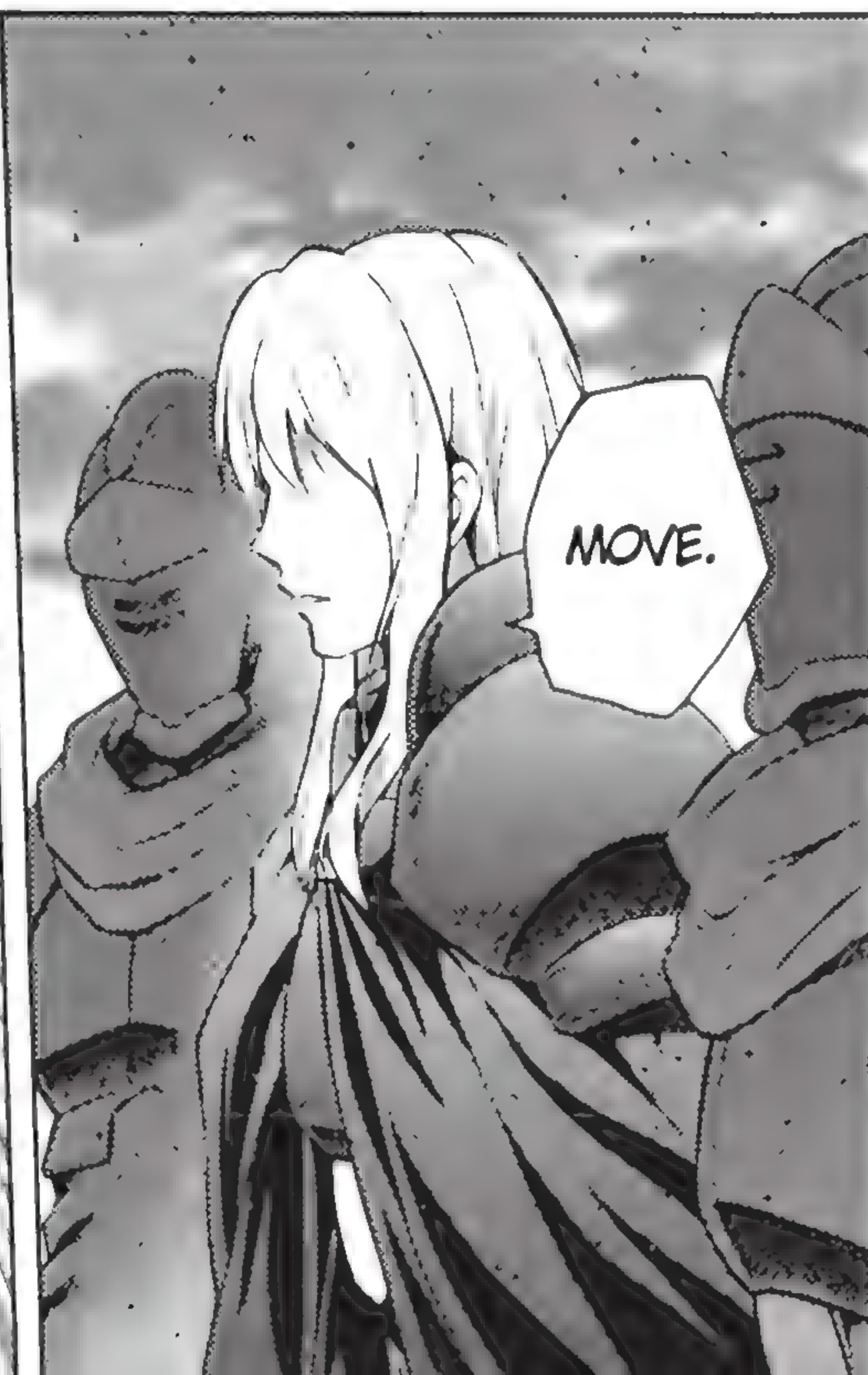
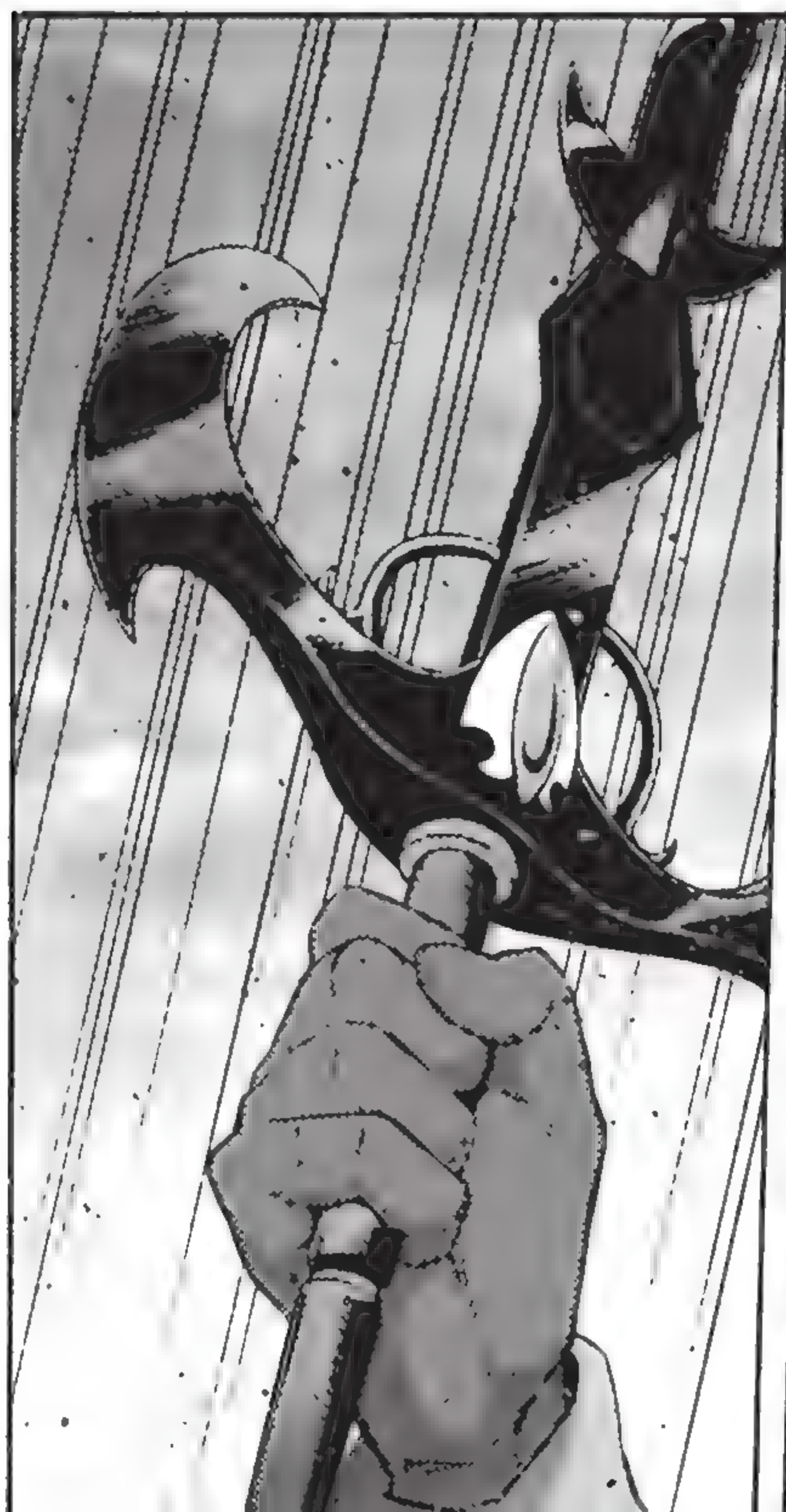


"EVERYONE,
MY ONE
ORDER TO
YOU IS TO
SURVIVE."

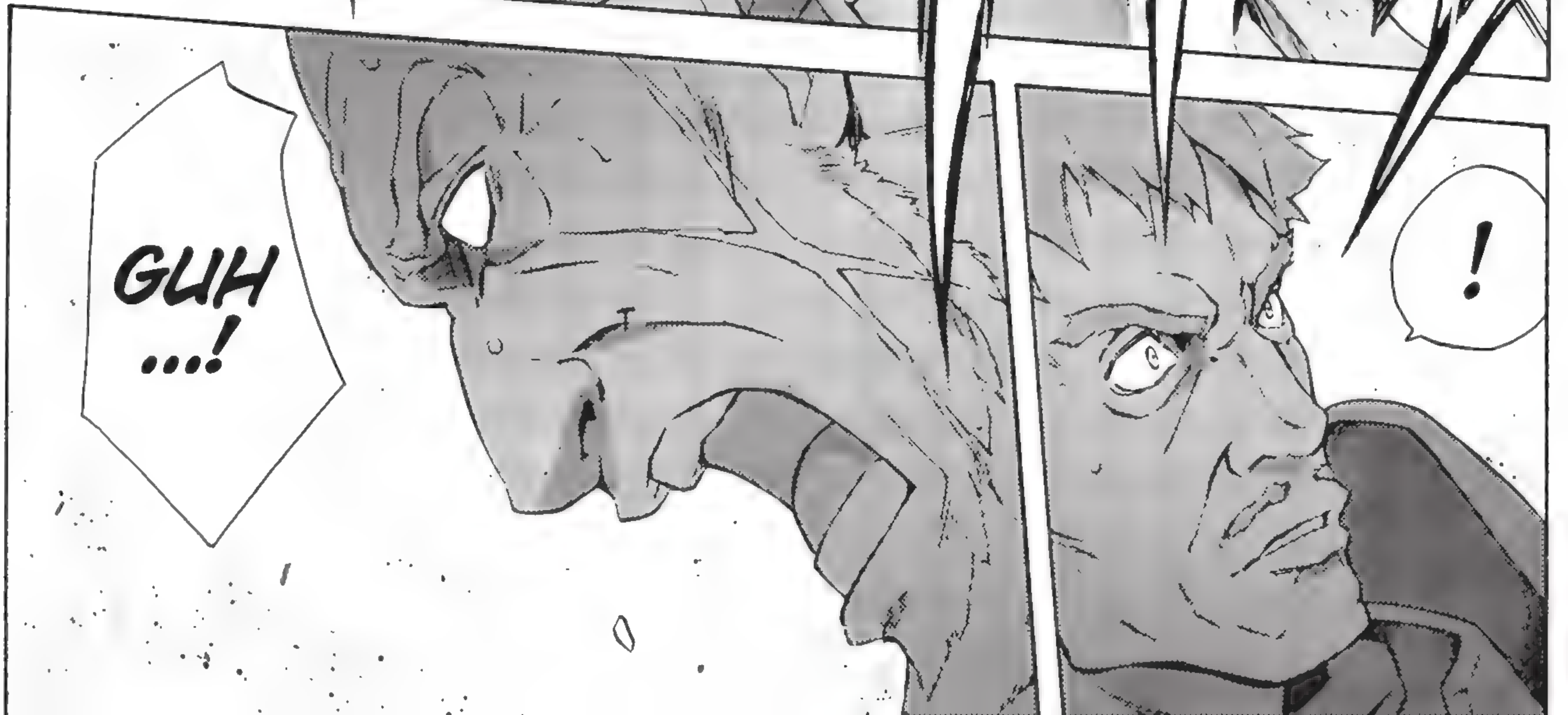


THOUGH
I...

THAT'S RIGHT.
ALL OF
YOU MUST
SURVIVE...

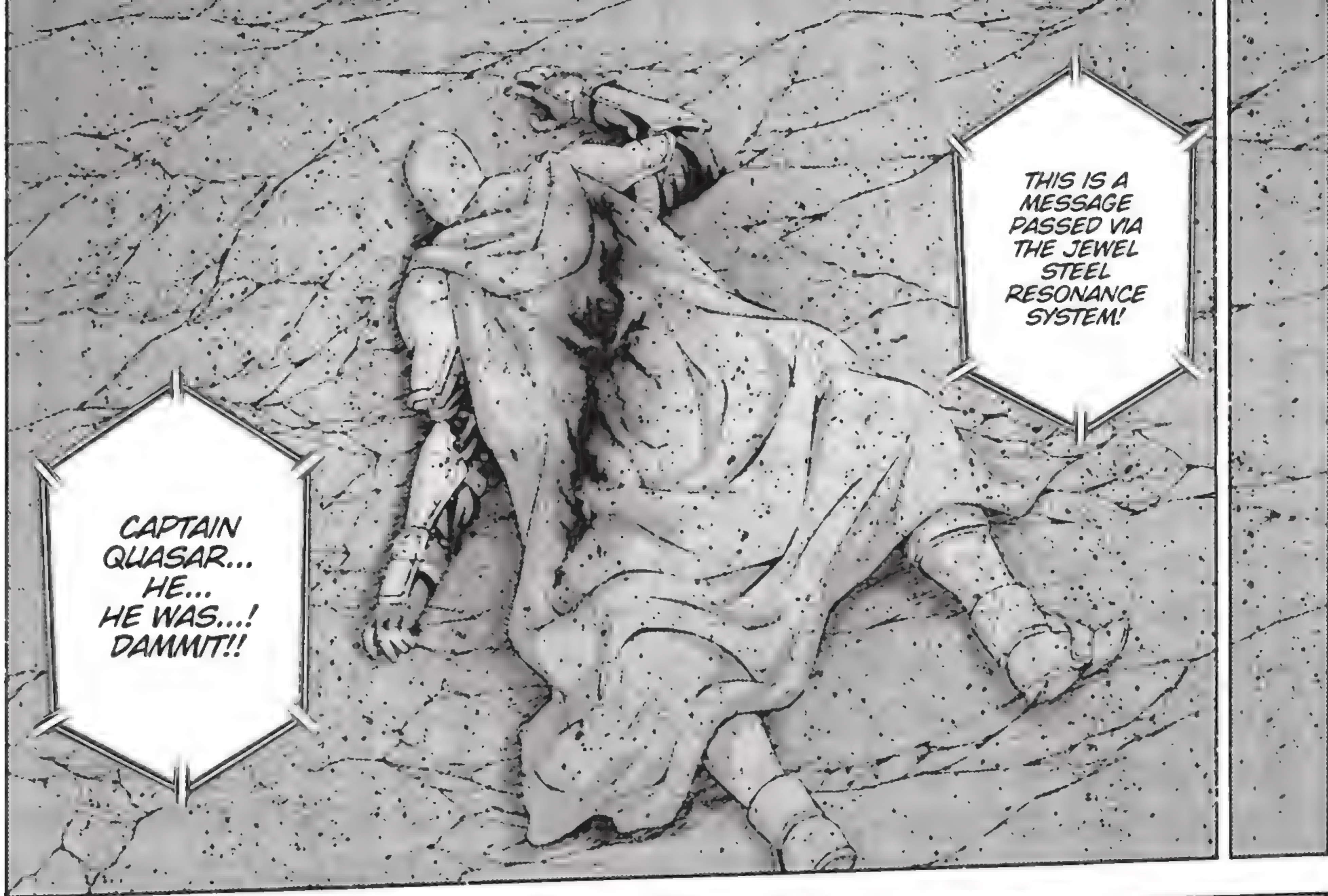


MOVE.



GUH
....!

!



CAPTAIN
QUASAR...
HE...
HE WAS....!
DAMMIT!!

THIS IS A
MESSAGE
PASSED VIA
THE JEWEL
STEEL
RESONANCE
SYSTEM!



HE'S
HEADED
TOWARDS
THE
CAVES
NOW!

SIEGFRIED
HOUSMAN!

A MAN
IN
BLACK
DID
IT...



PLEASE!!

SOME-
BODY
NEEDS
TO
STOP
HIM!

!!

RAAAAAAAH

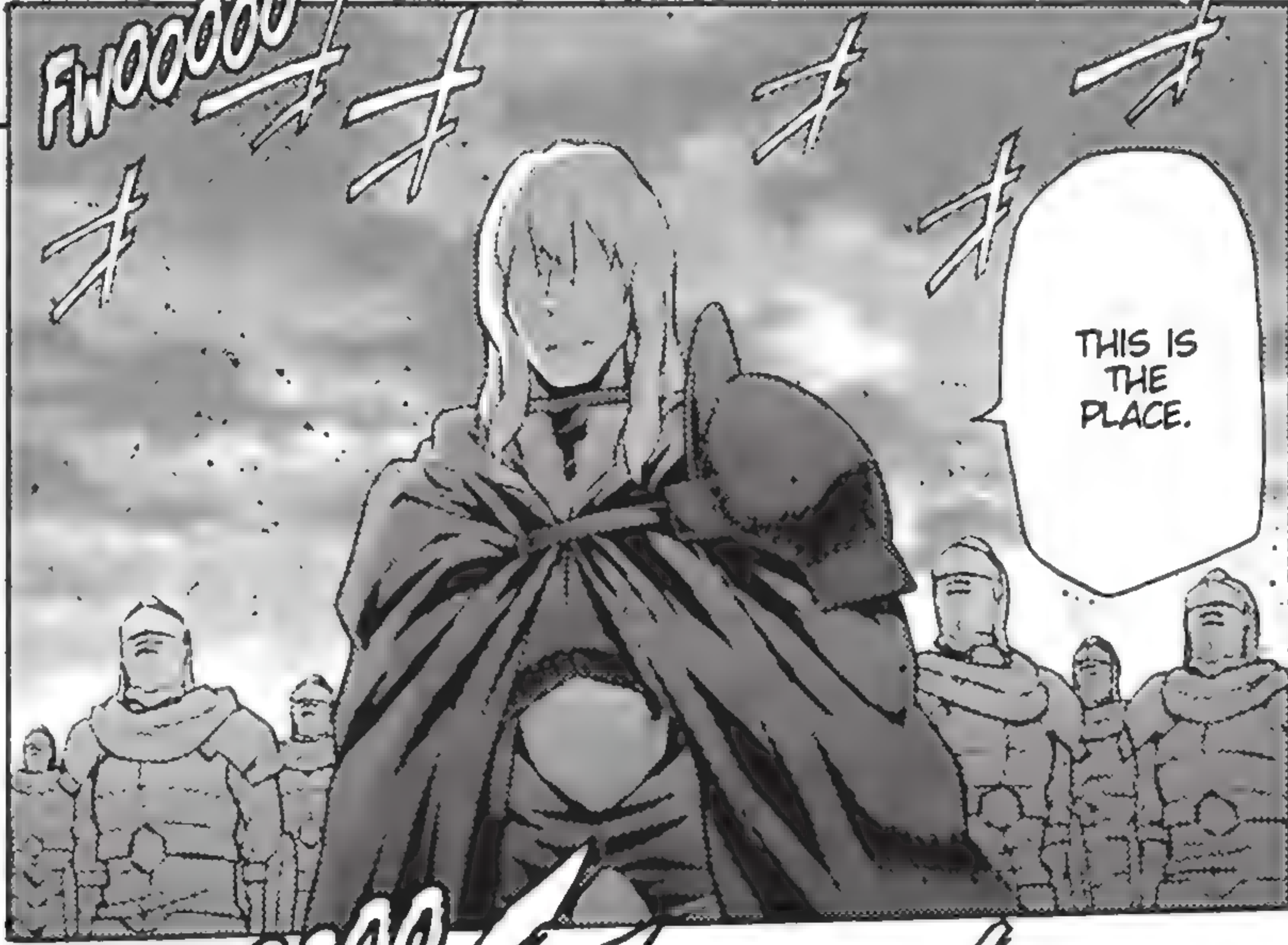


I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU FOOLING AROUND.

THIS BATTLE IS IMPORTANT.

DID I INTERRUPT YOU?

STOMP!



THIS IS THE PLACE.

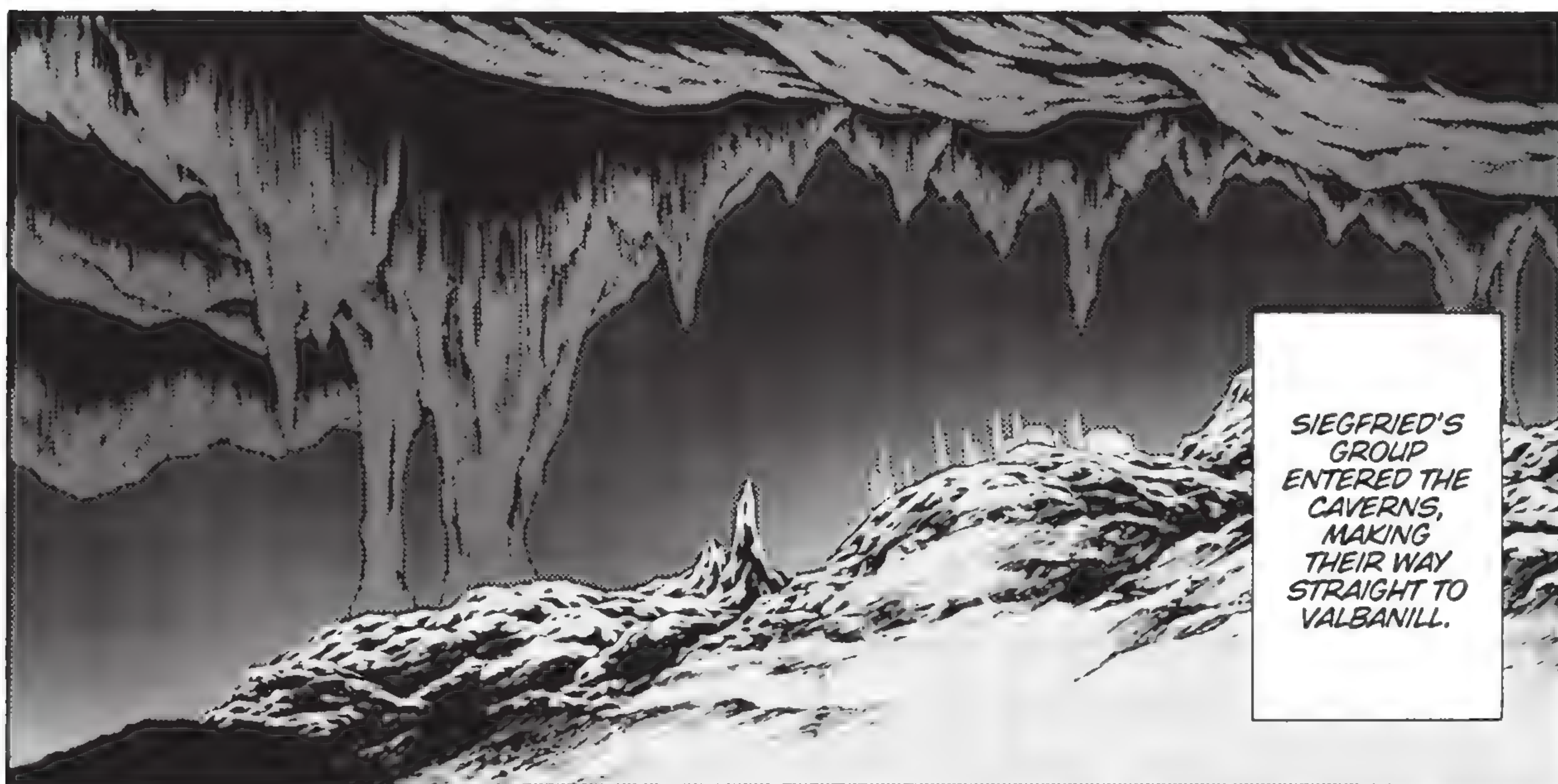
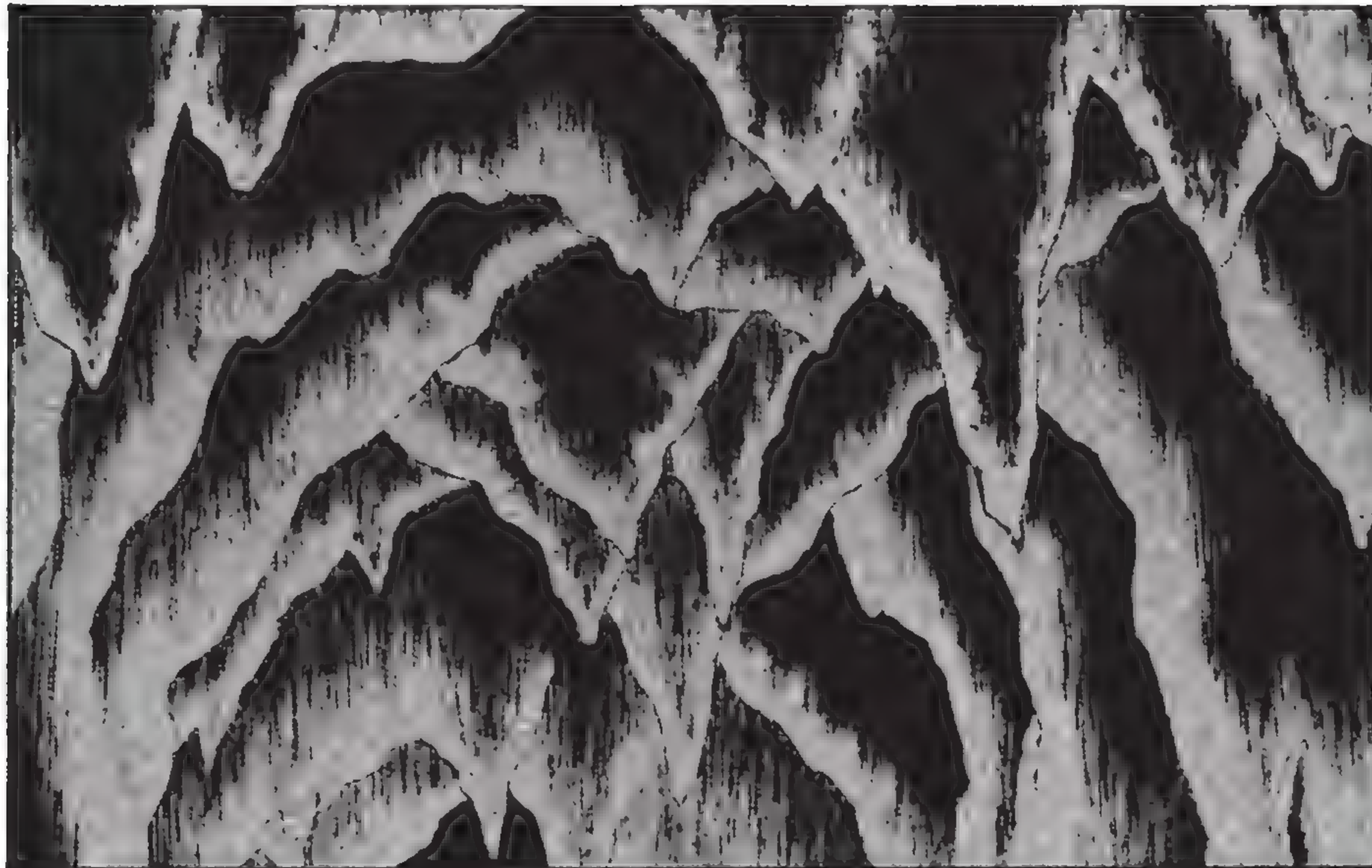
FWOOOOOO



I KNOW.



HYOOOOOOOOO

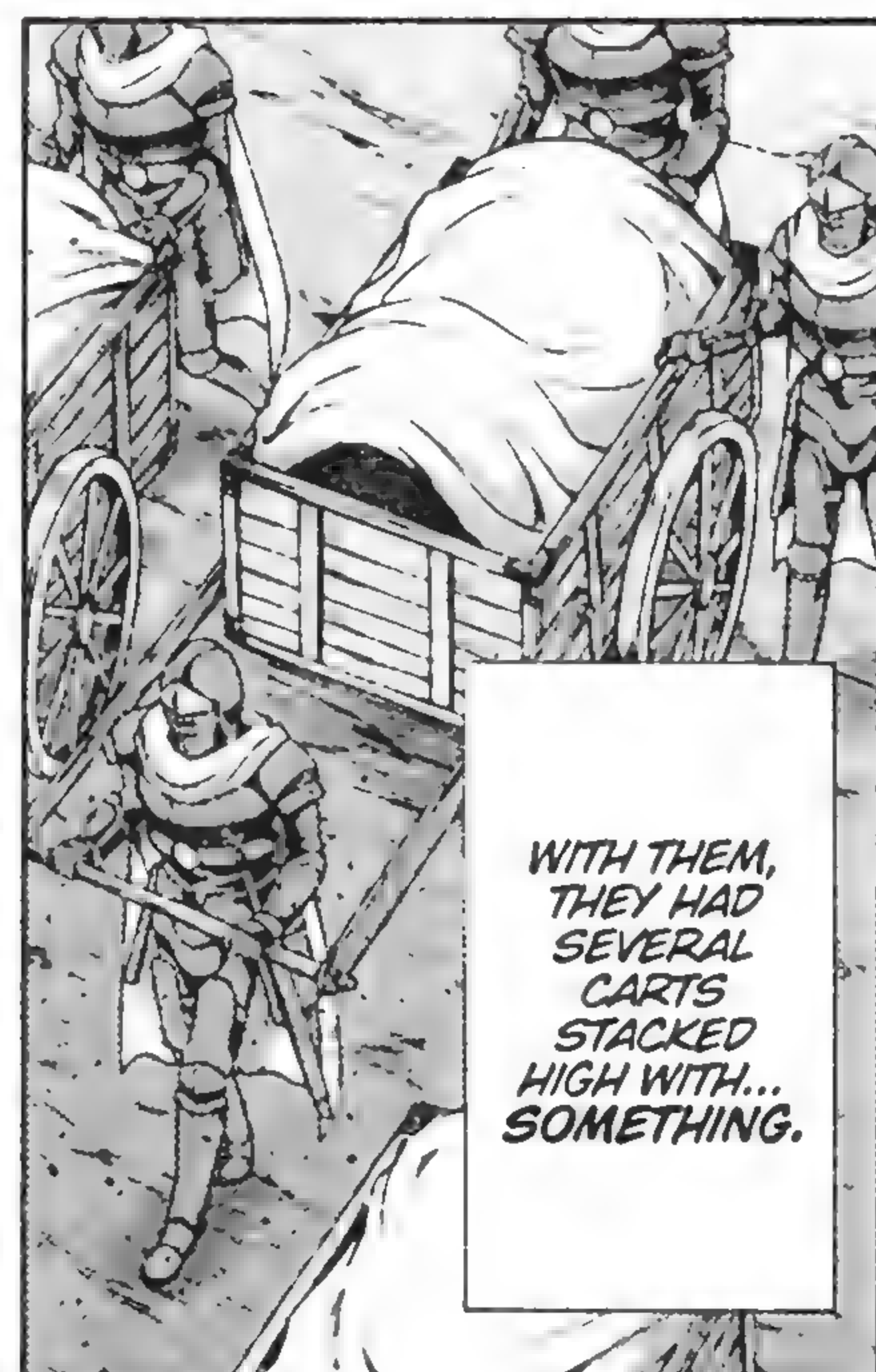


SIEGFRIED'S
GROUP
ENTERED THE
CAVERNS,
MAKING
THEIR WAY
STRAIGHT TO
VALBANILL.

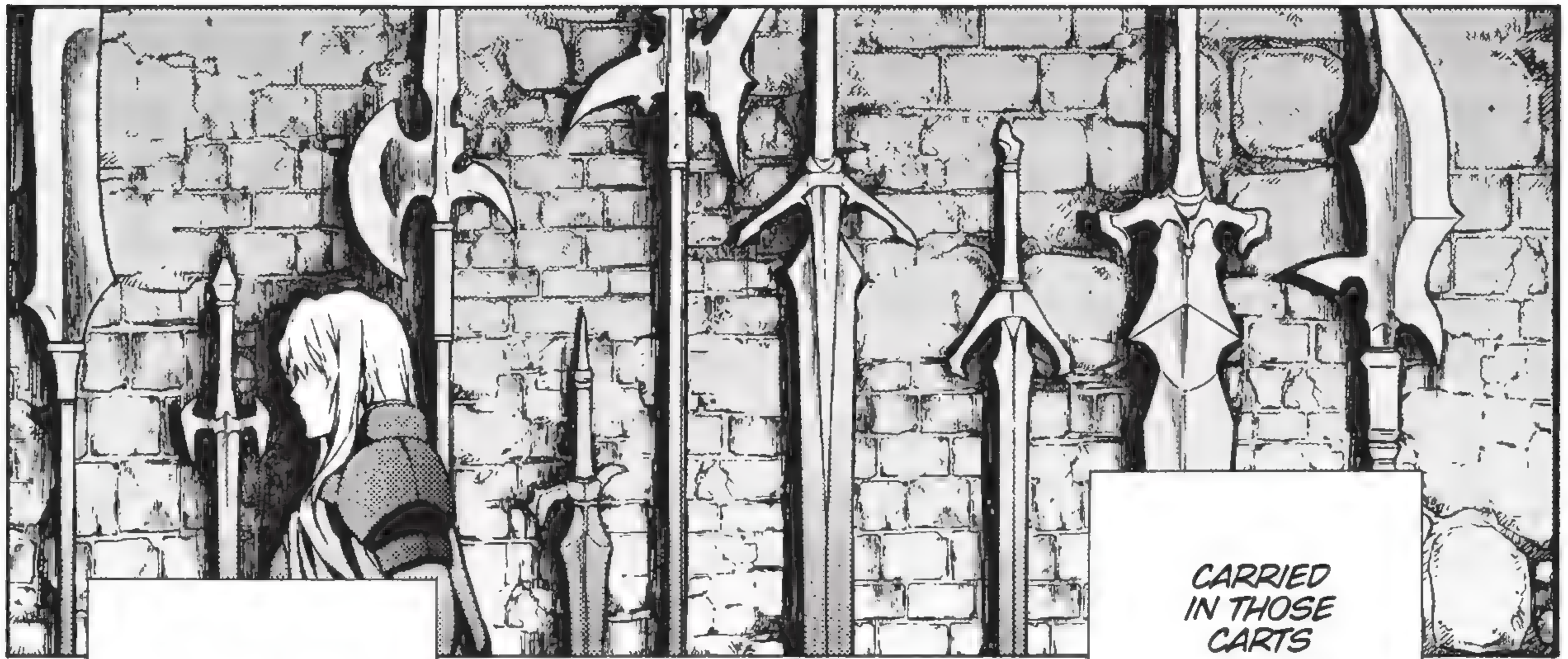


WHAT
COULD BE
IN THOSE
CARTS?
WHY DID
THEY
BOTHR
TO BRING
THEM?

IN
FACT...

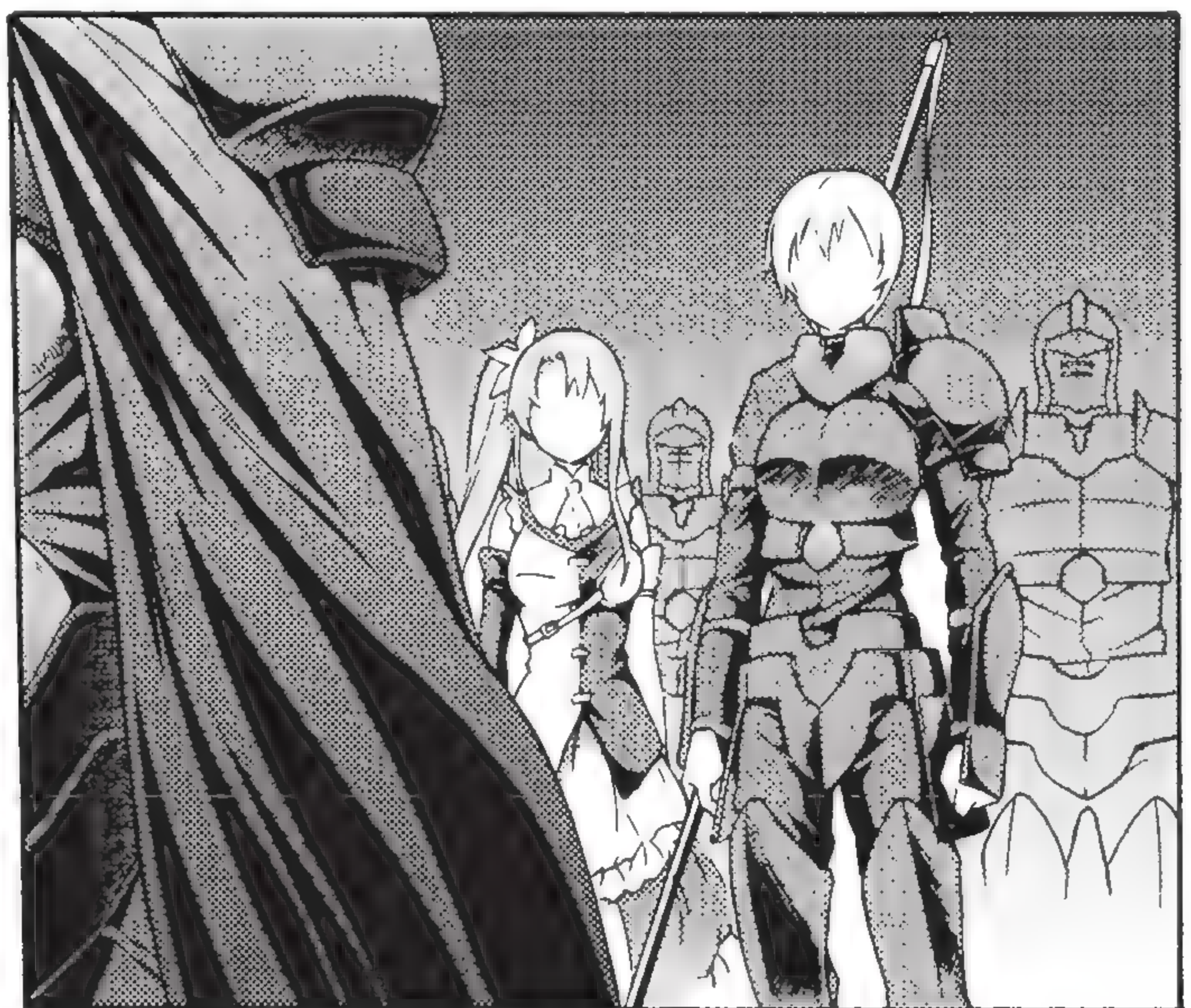
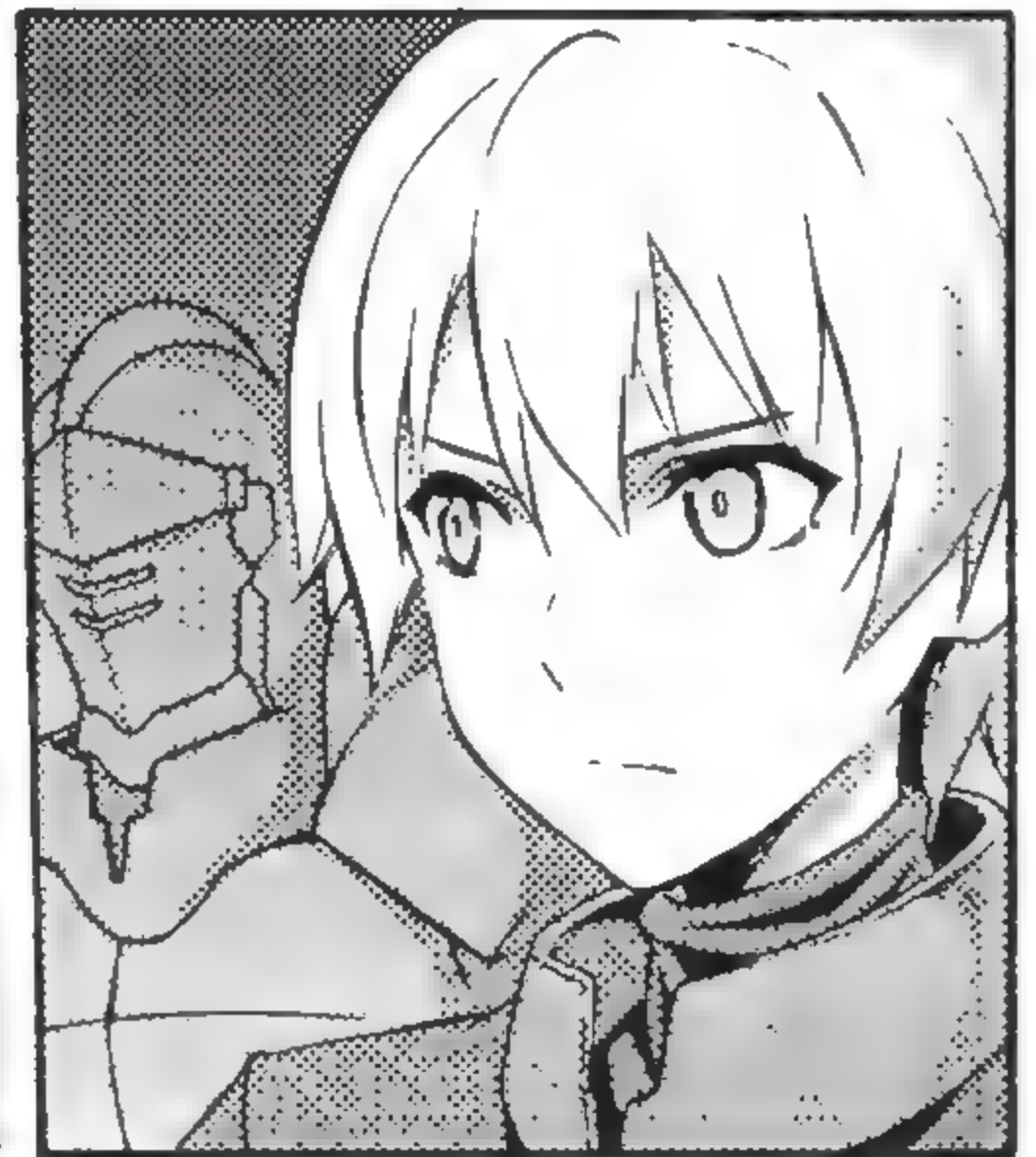
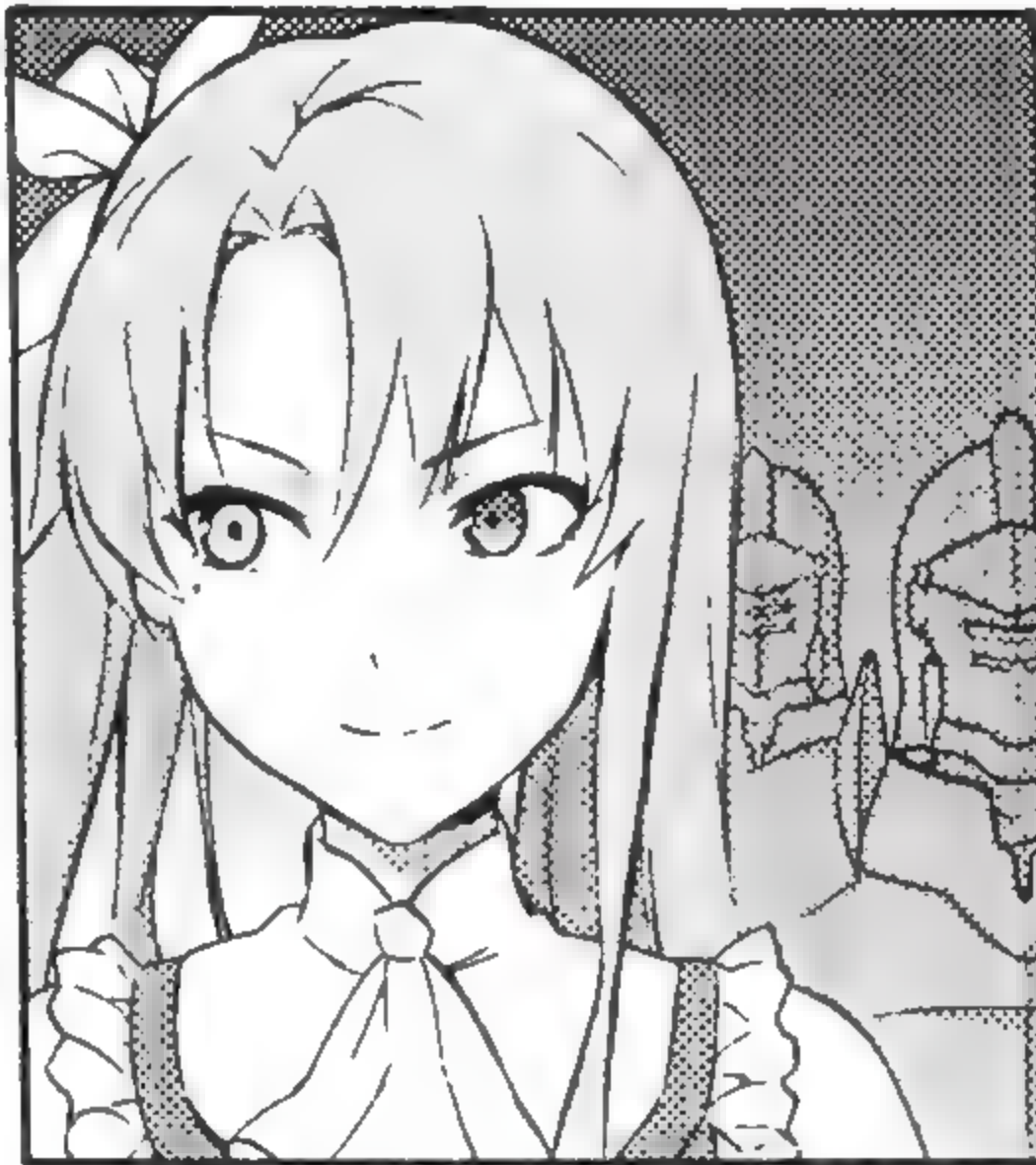
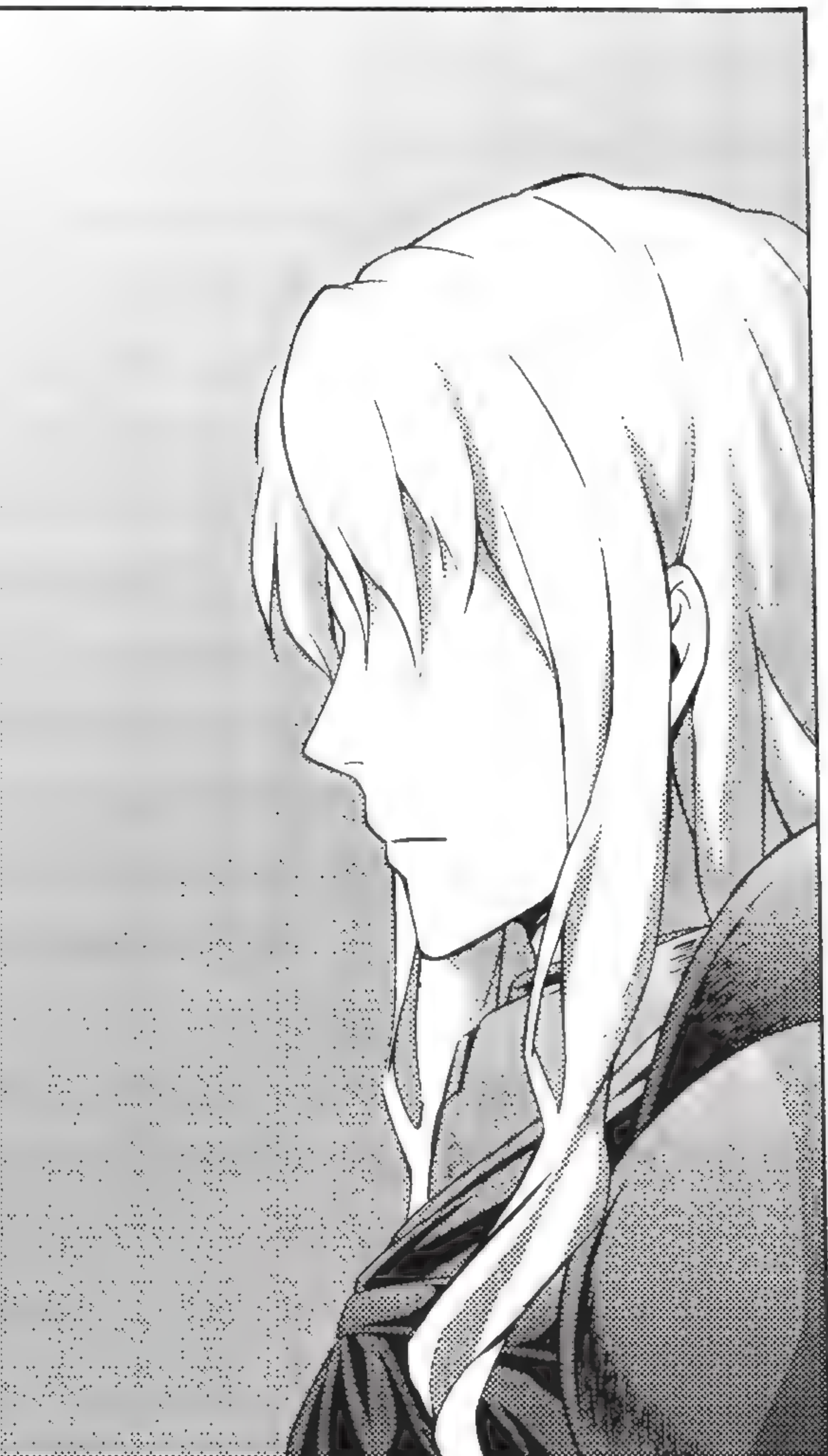
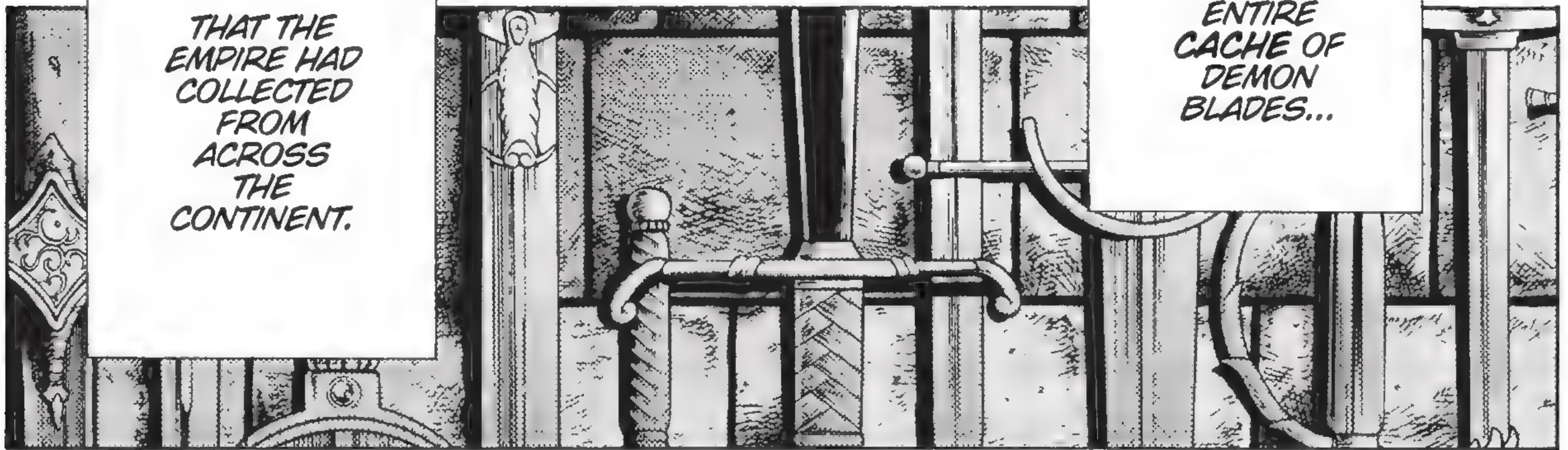


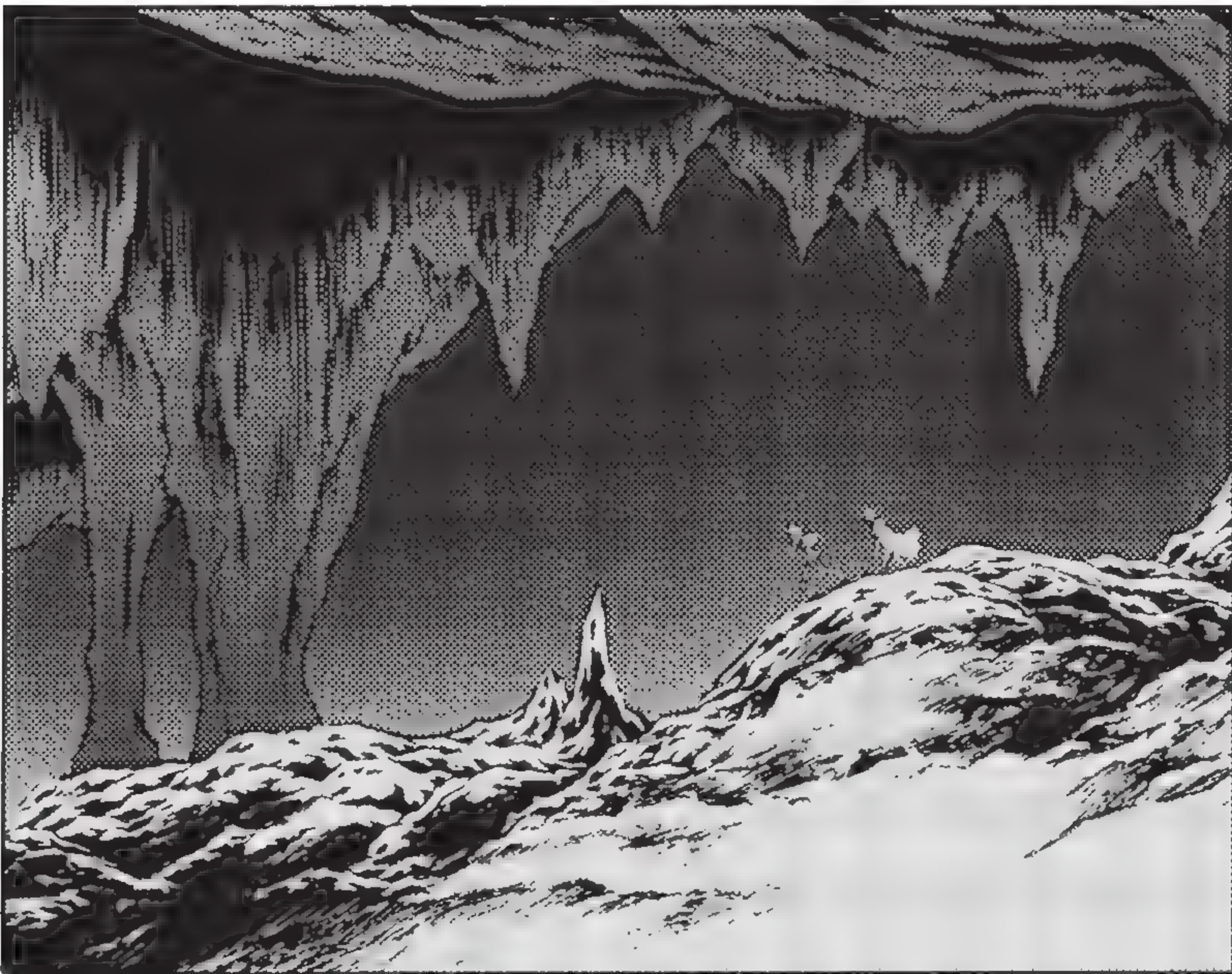
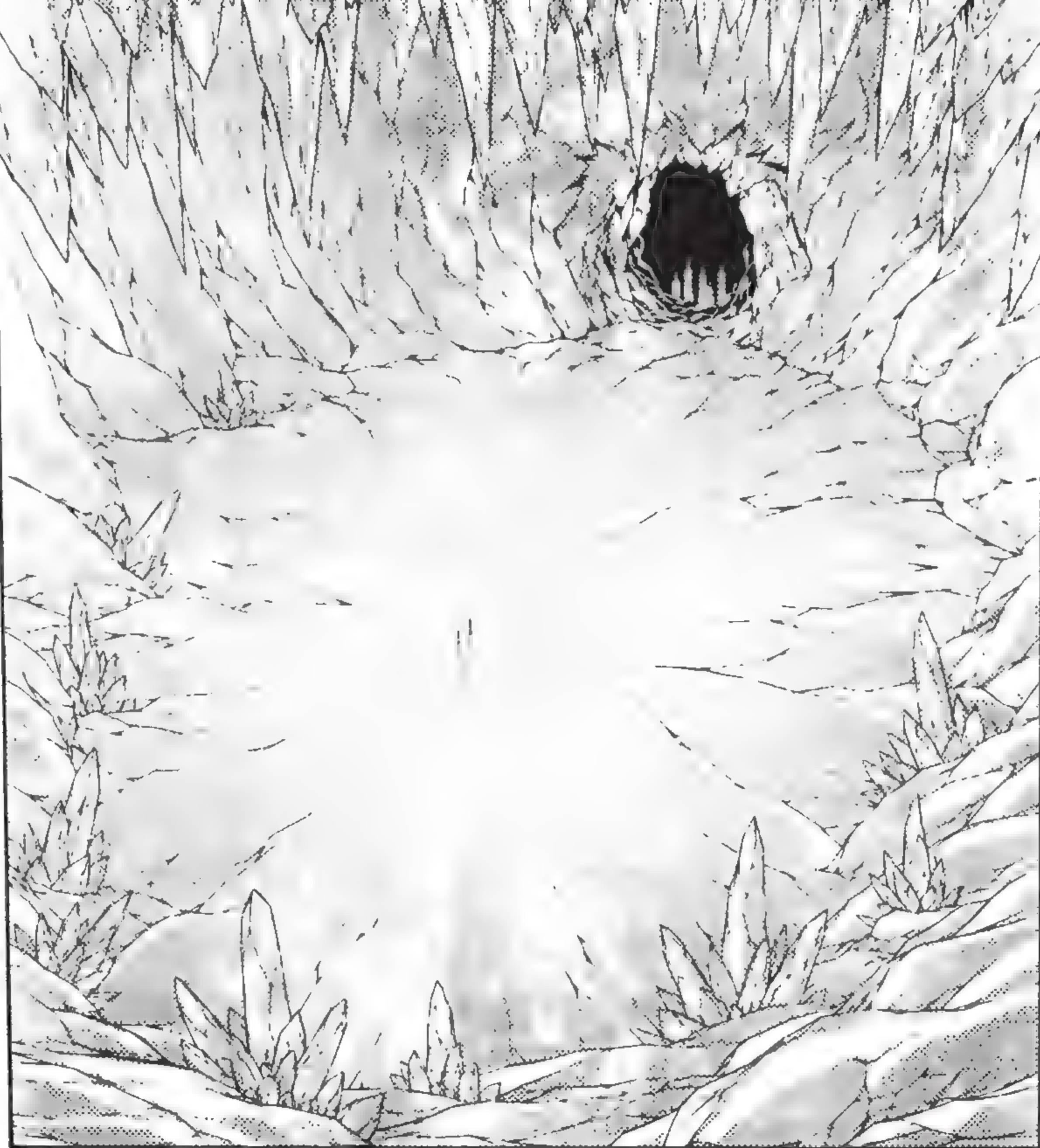
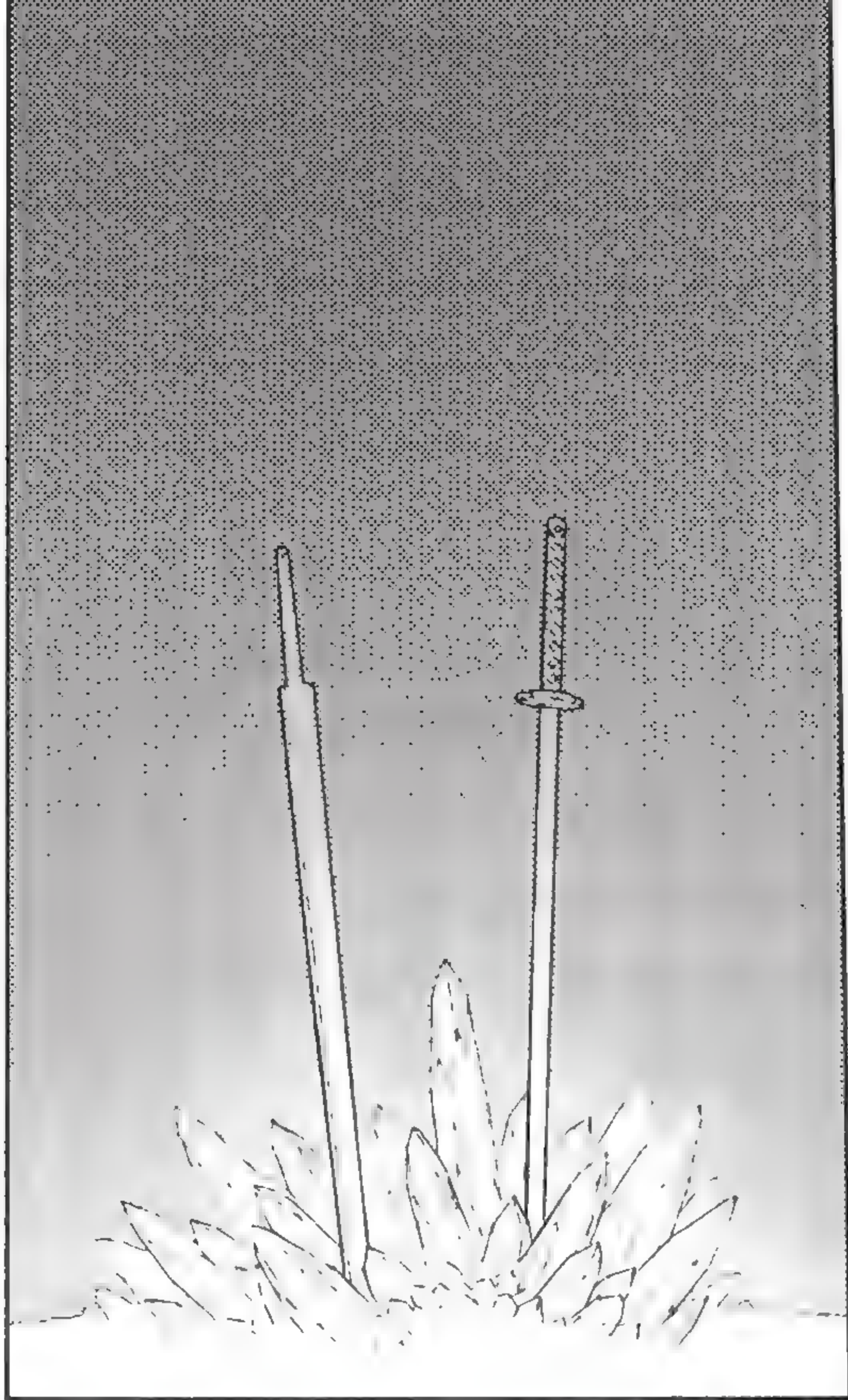
WITH THEM,
THEY HAD
SEVERAL
CARTS
STACKED
HIGH WITH...
SOMETHING.

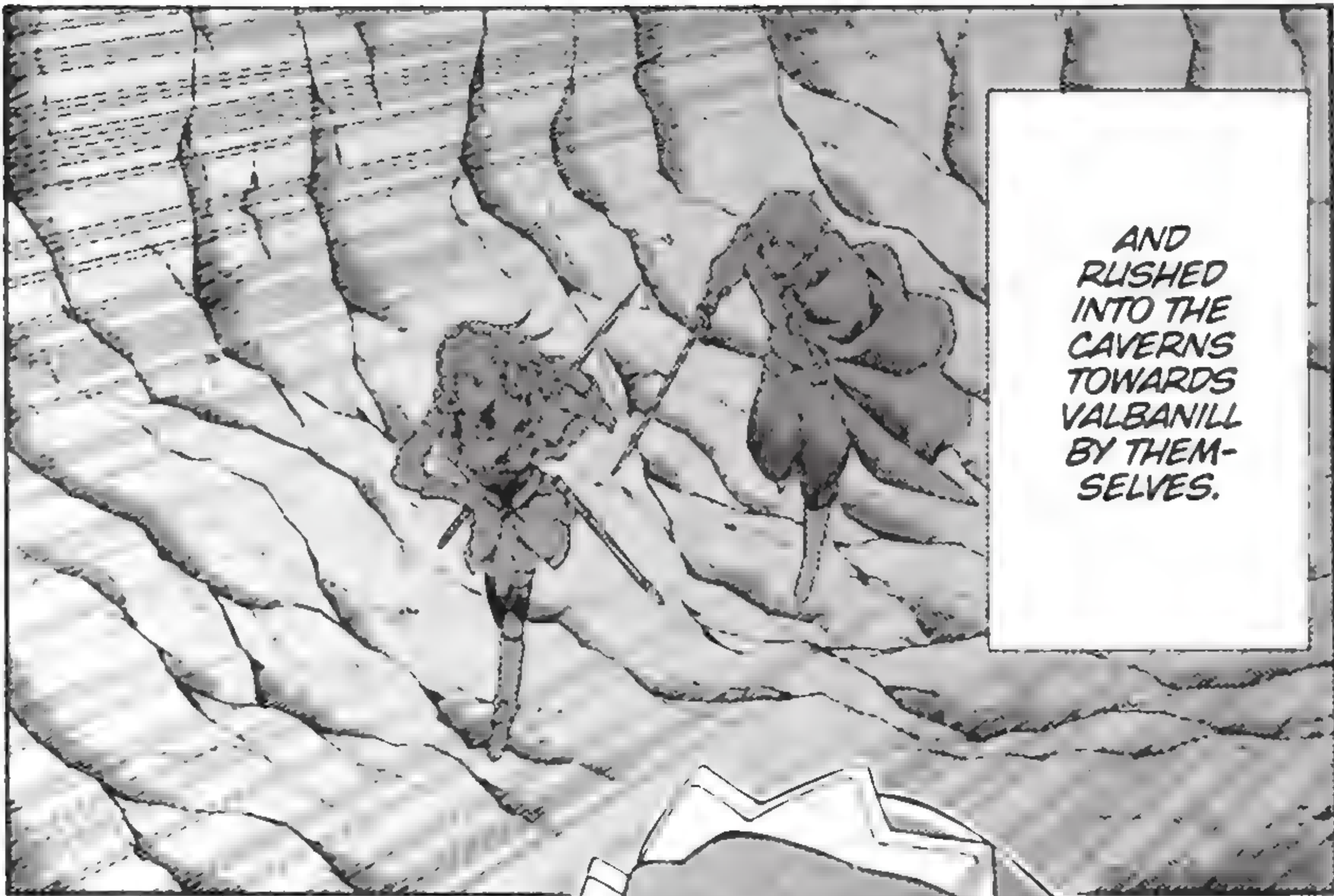


THAT THE
EMPIRE HAD
COLLECTED
FROM
ACROSS
THE
CONTINENT.

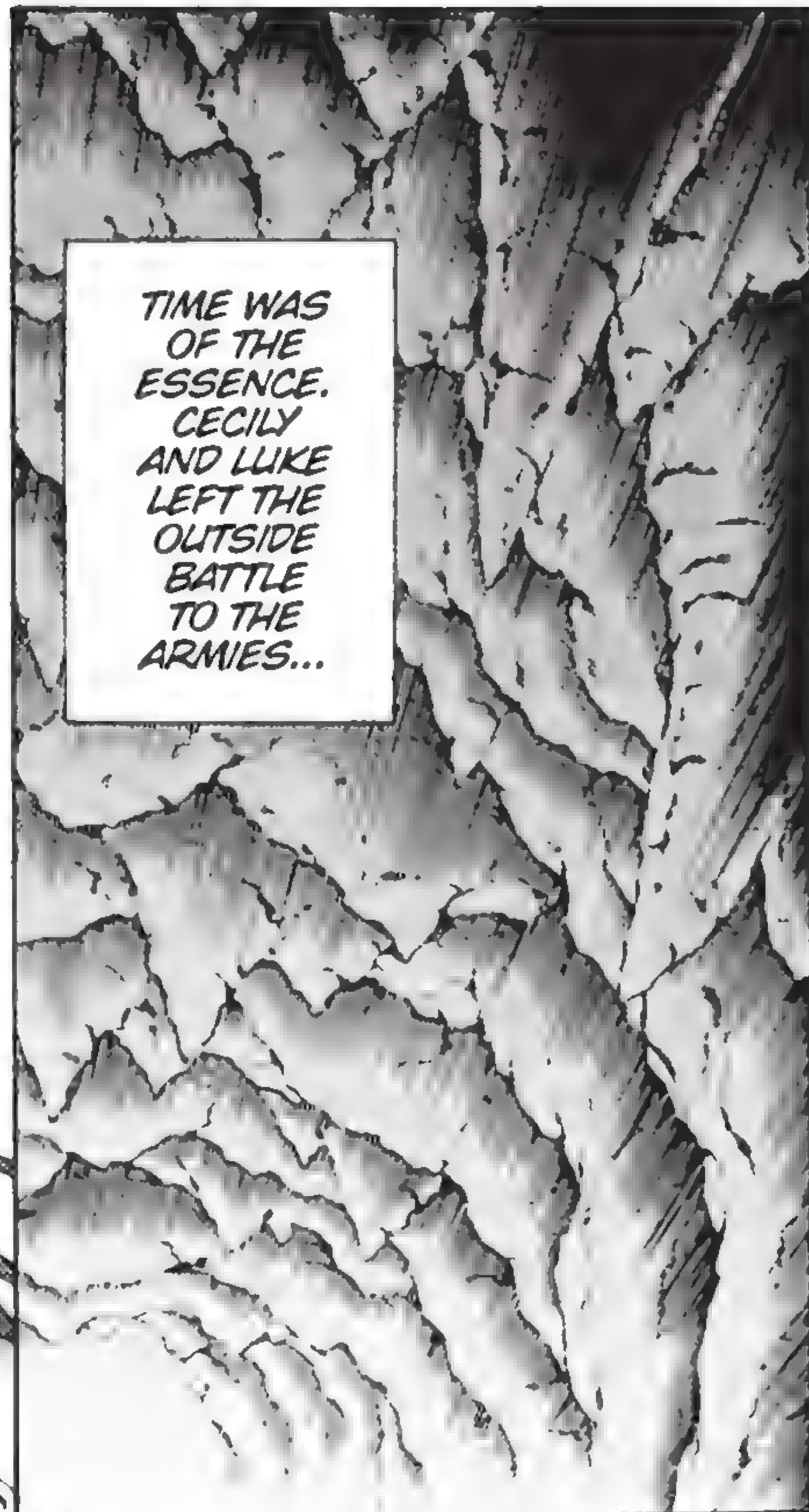
CARRIED
IN THOSE
CARTS
WAS THE
ENTIRE
CACHE OF
DEMON
BLADES...







AND
RUSHED
INTO THE
CAVERNS
TOWARDS
VALBANILL
BY THEM-
SELVES.

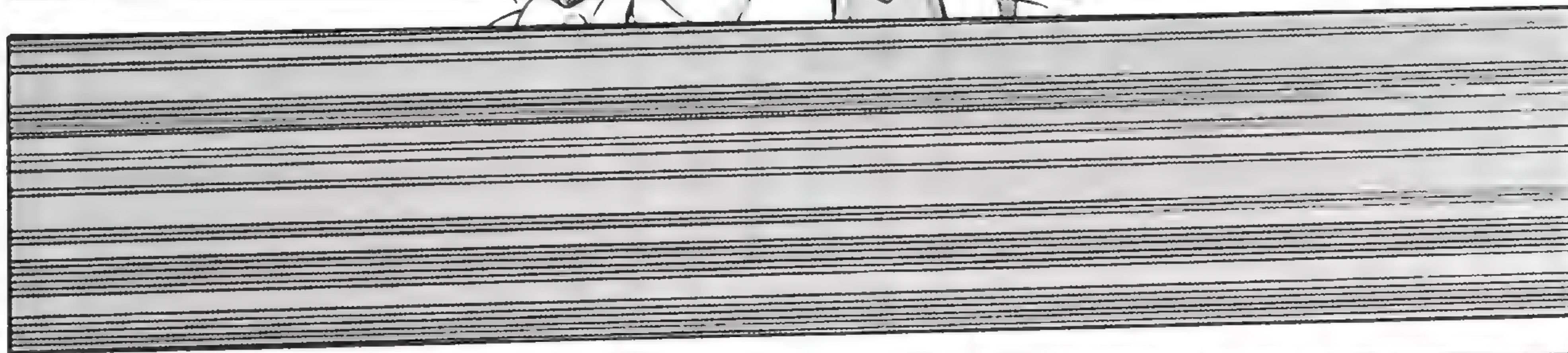


TIME WAS
OF THE
ESSENCE.
CECILY
AND LUKE
LEFT THE
OUTSIDE
BATTLE
TO THE
ARMIES...



CAP-
TAIN...

CAP-
TAIN...!



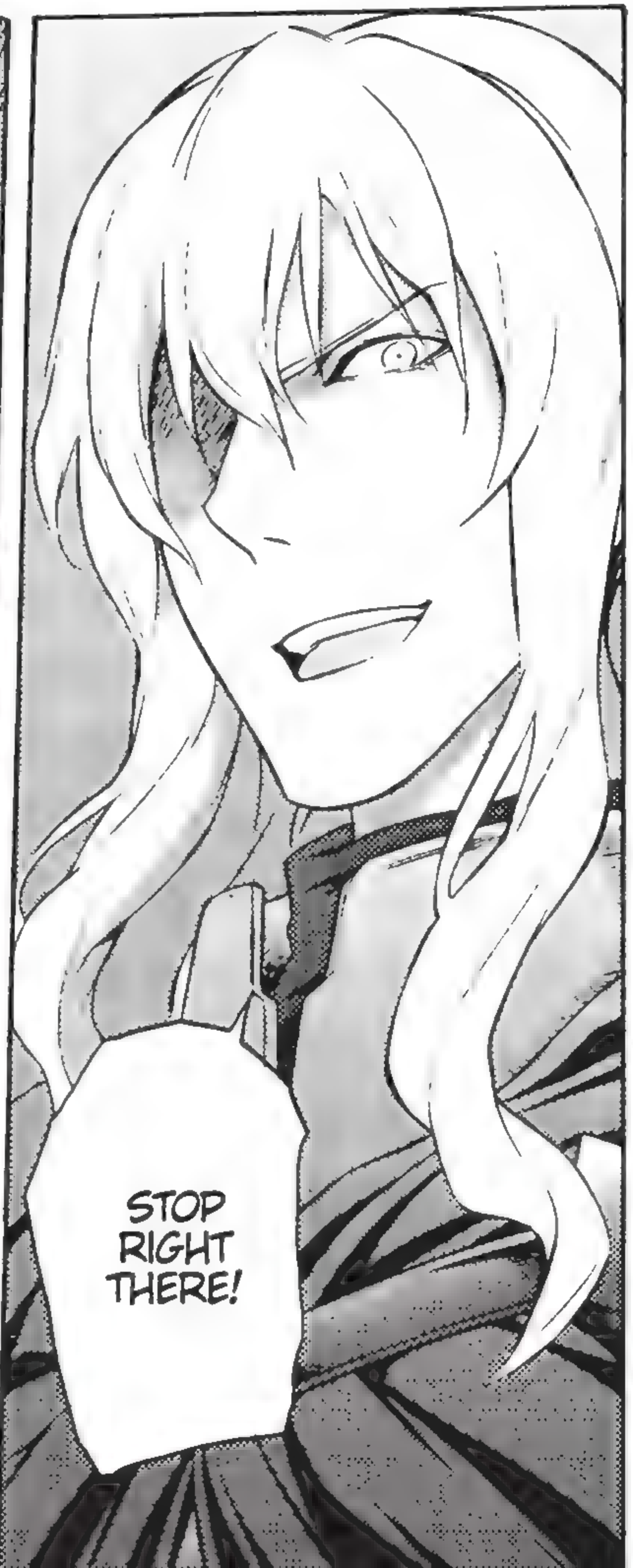


SIEG-
FRIED,
WAIT!!



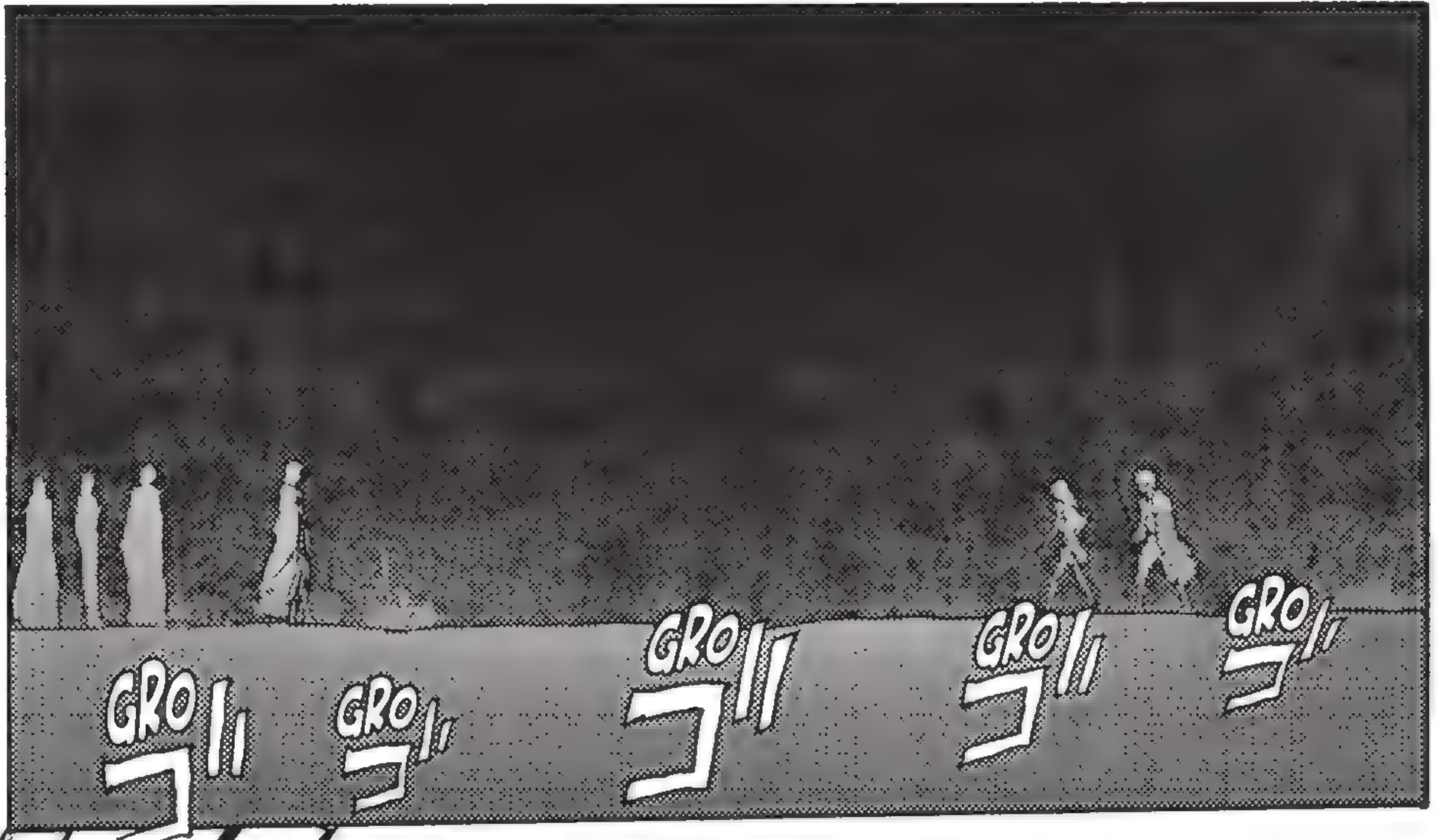
IF YOU
MOVE...

I'LL
ENGULF
BOTH OF
THESE
"SEALS"
IN MY
DEMON
BLADE'S
FLAME!



STOP
RIGHT
THERE!







THOSE
ARE
VAL-
BANILL'S
TEN-
DRILS!!

THROUGH

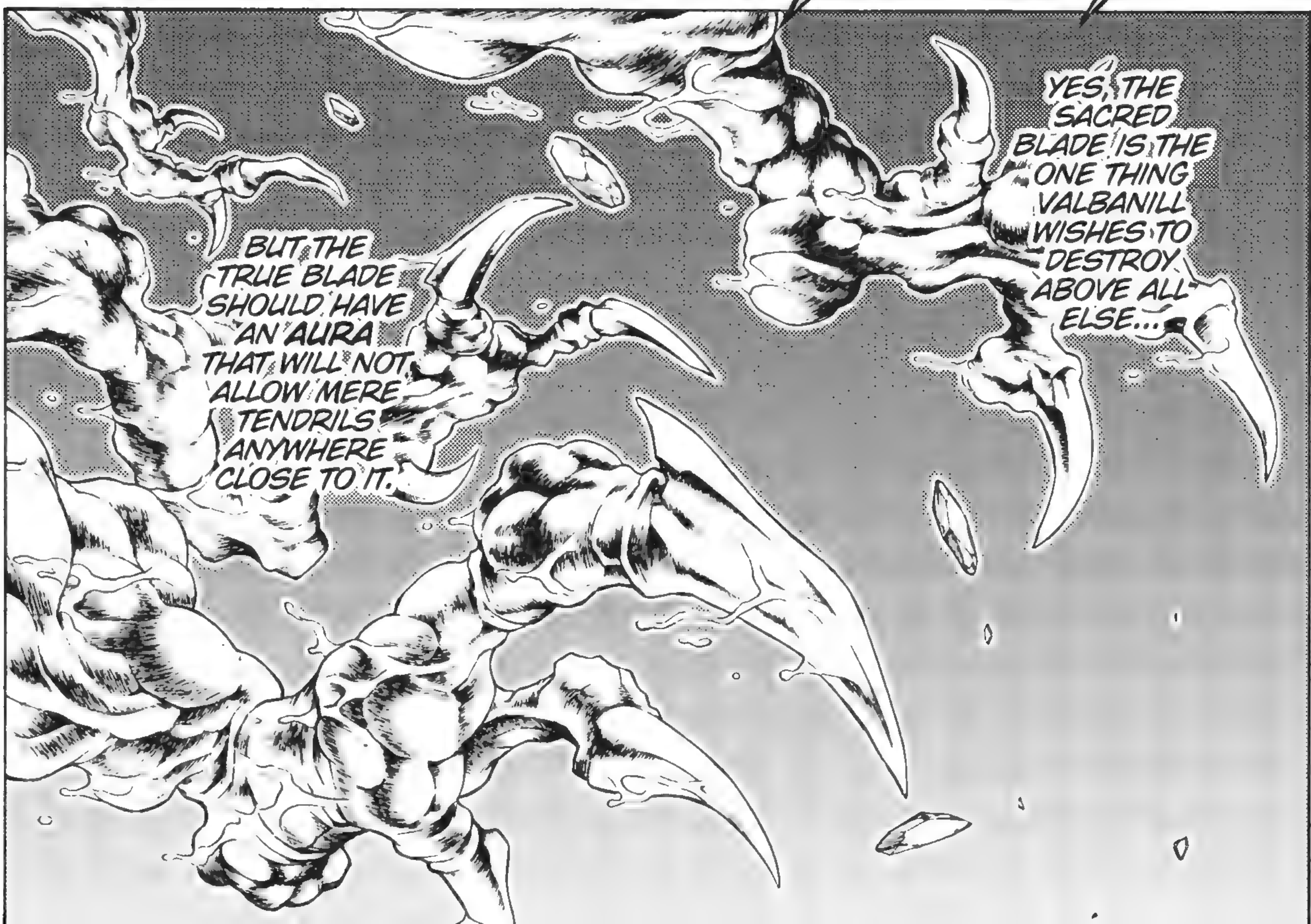
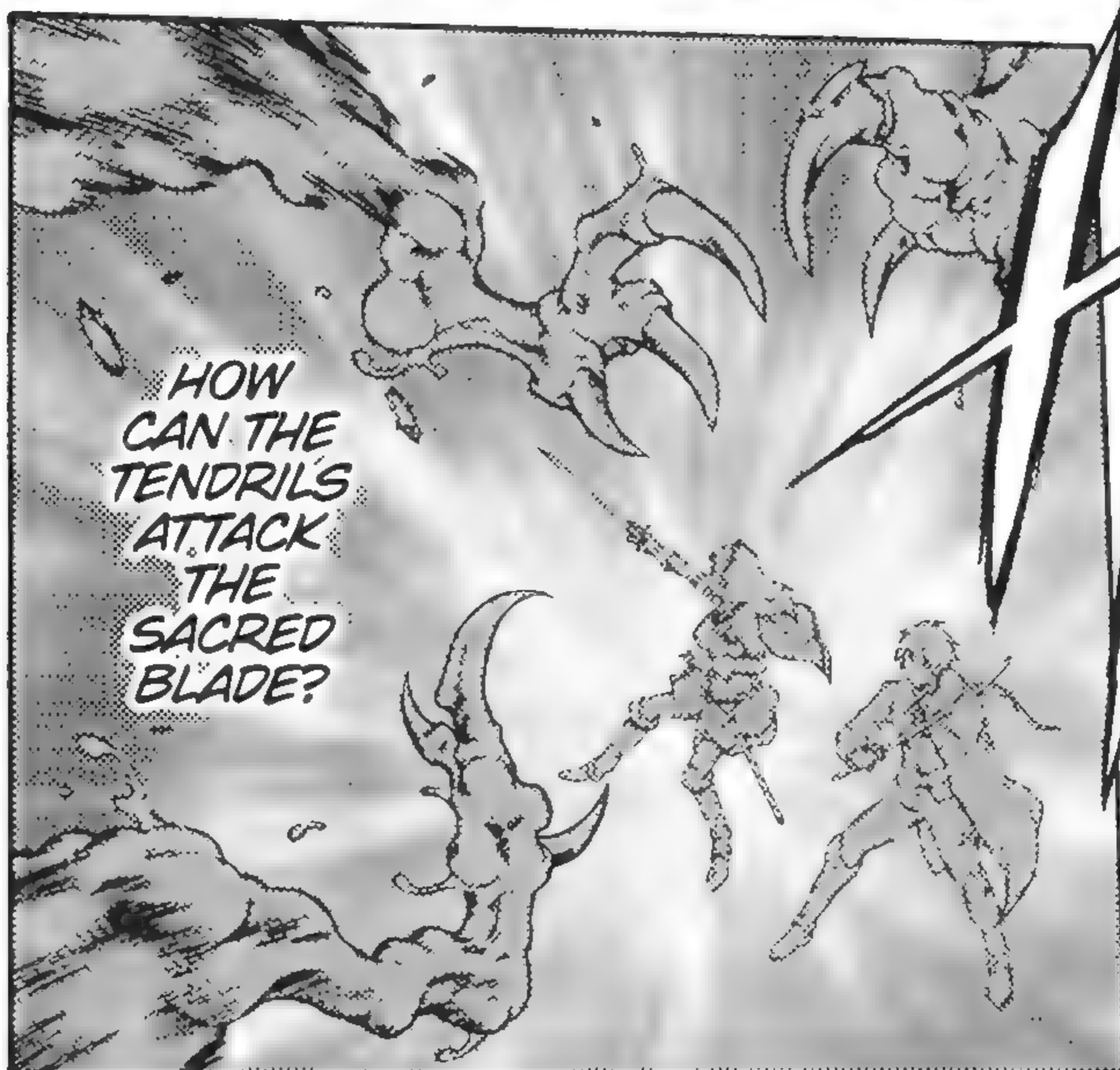
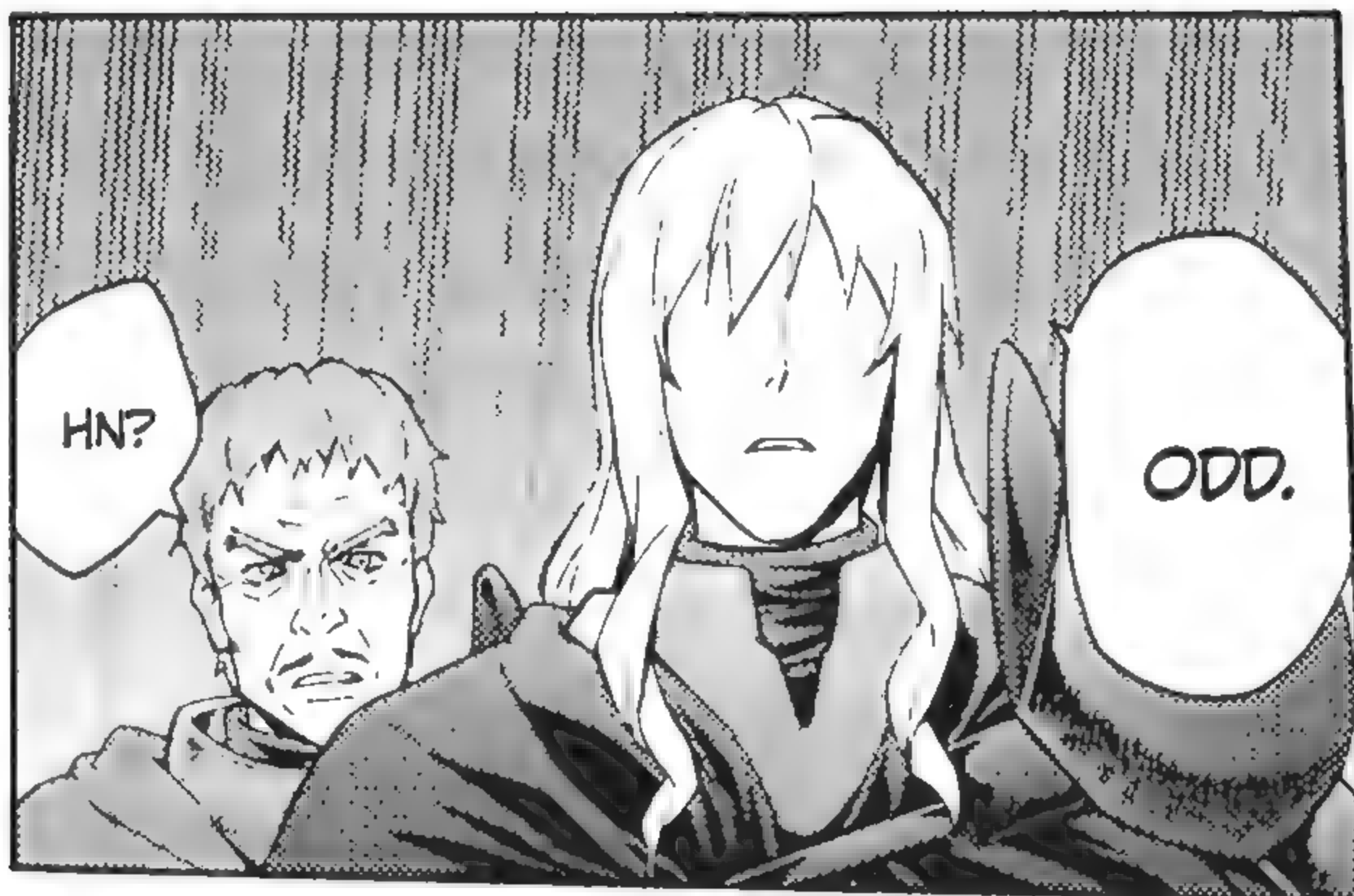
POW

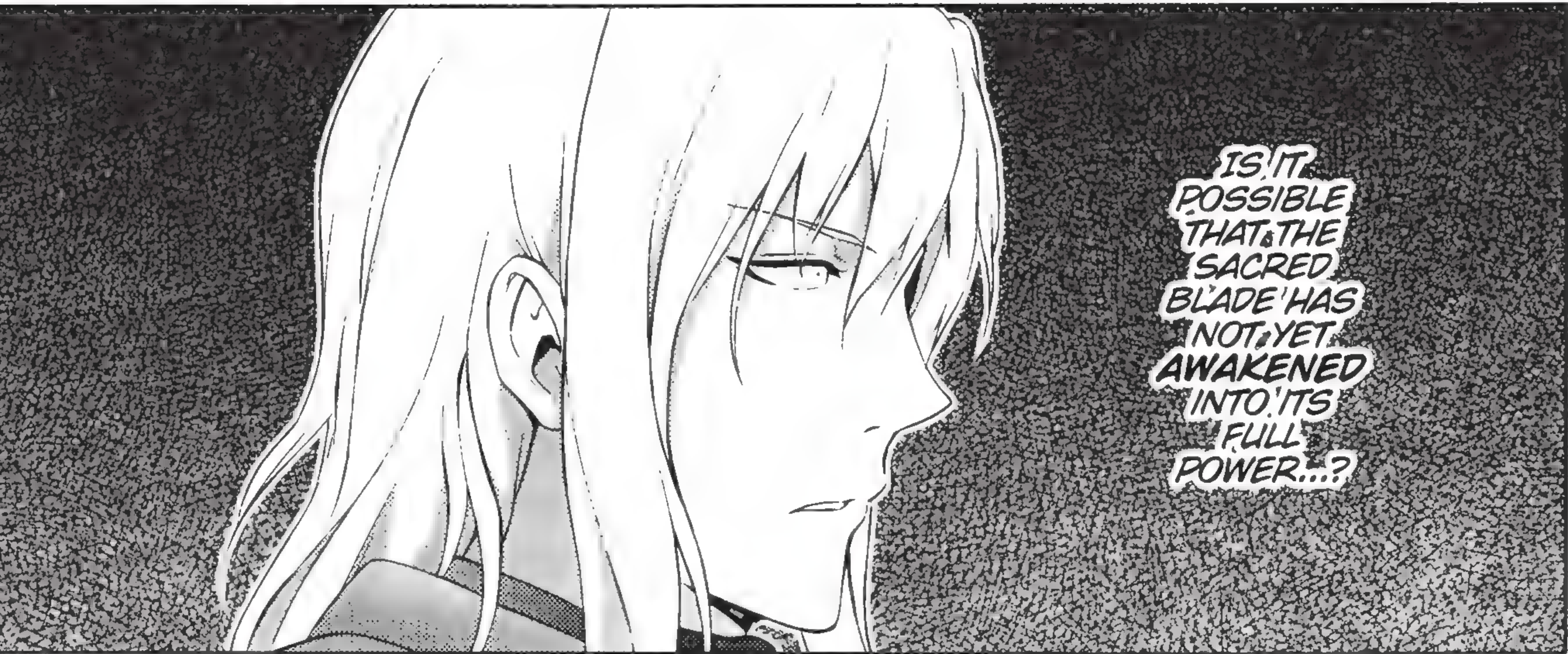


DAMMIT!

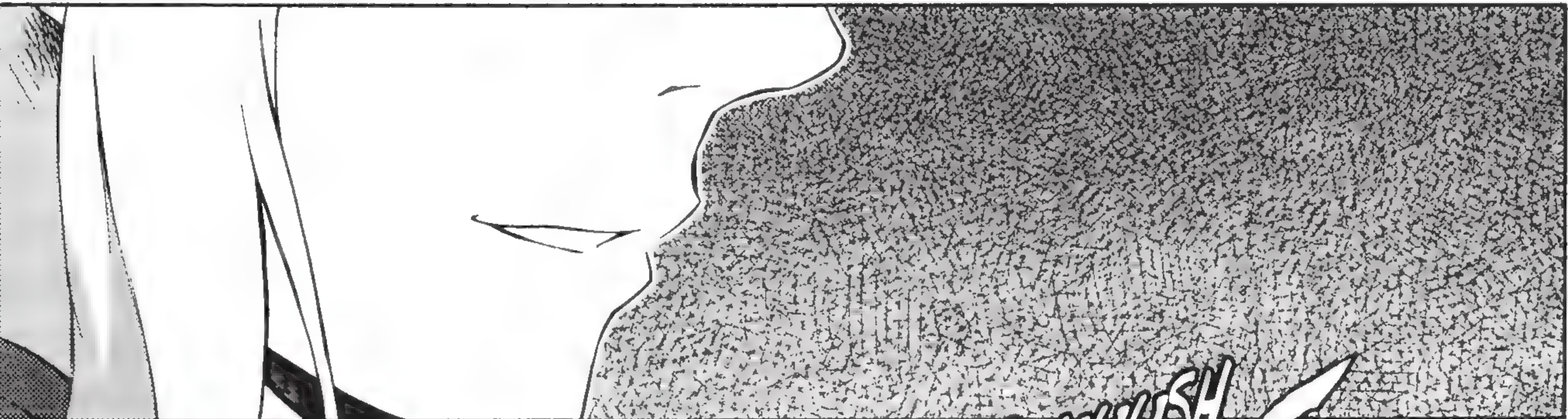
SROOSH

WH

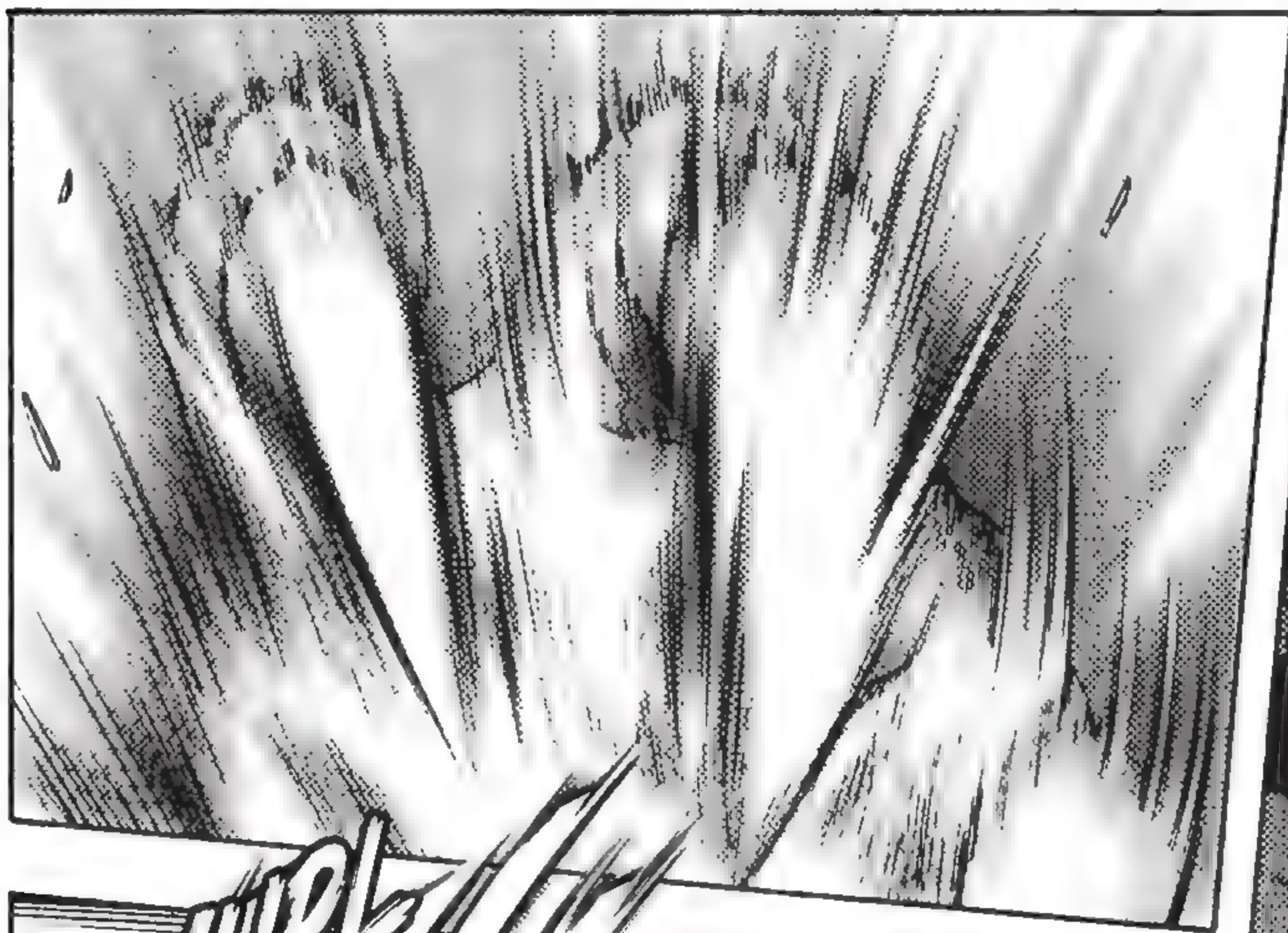




IS IT
POSSIBLE
THAT THE
SACRED
BLADE HAS
NOT YET
AWAKENED
INTO ITS
FULL
POWER...?



SHRUIIUSH



CECILY!





The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



 Chapter 58 **Valbarill**
(Part 6)





L-LUKE!!



SHRO

000/

000/

000/

000/

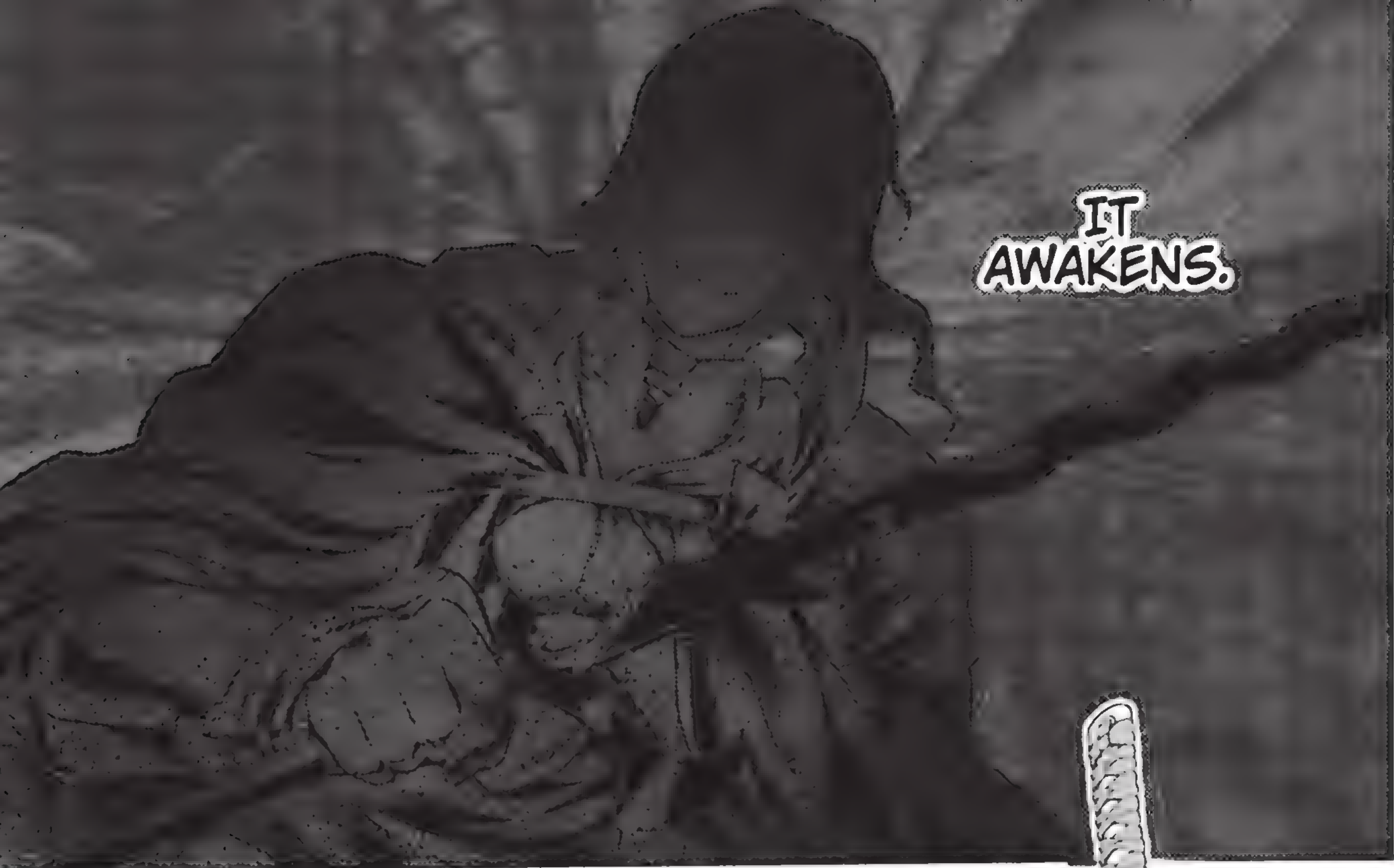
000/

CECILY!









IT
AWAKENS.



DAMN
YOU....!!

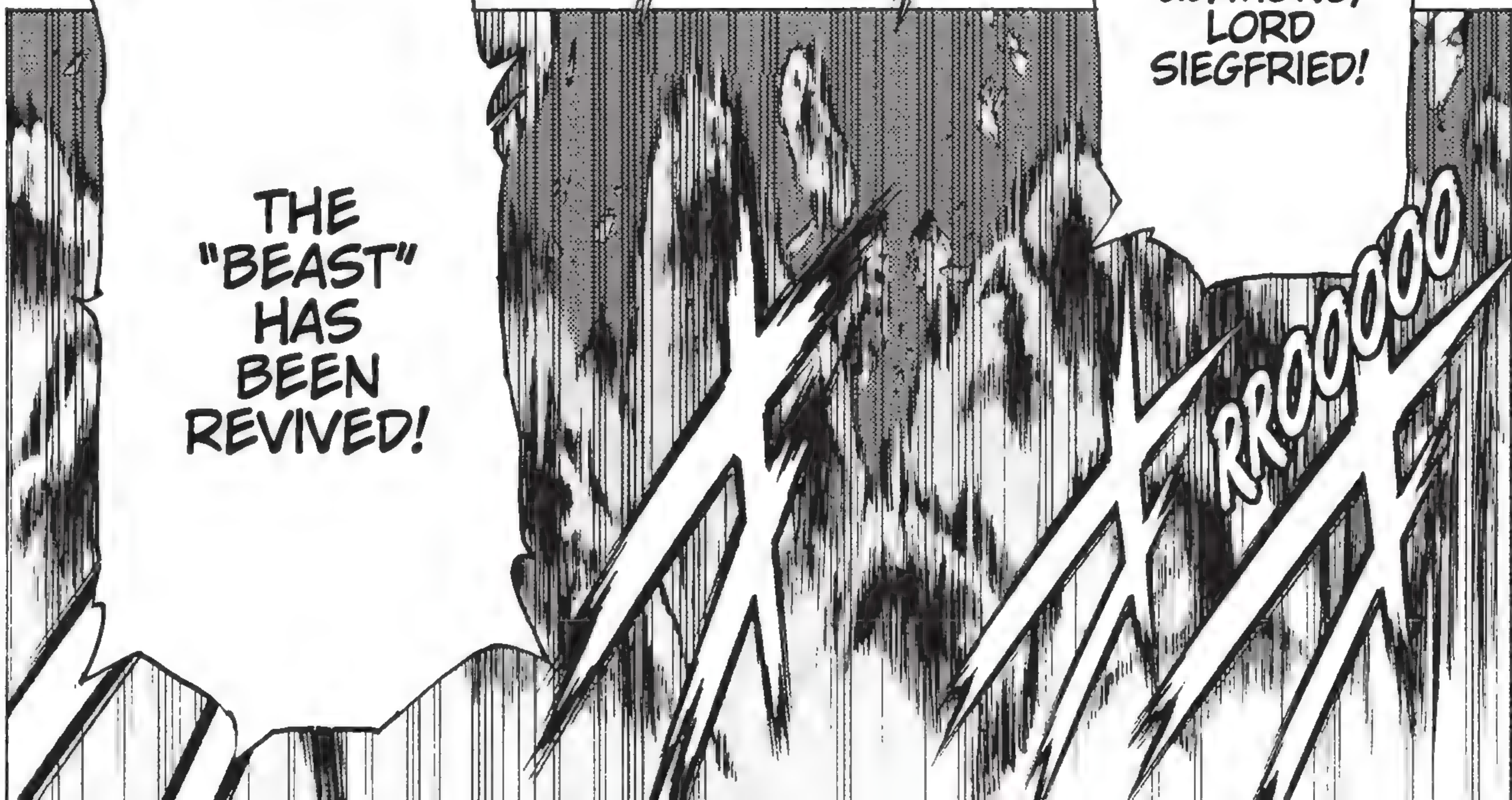






CONGRAT-
ULATIONS,
LORD
SIEGFRIED!

THE
"BEAST"
HAS
BEEN
REVIVED!



RRROOOOOO



IT ERUPTED
FROM THE
CRATER AT
THE TOP
OF BLAIR
VOLCANO.



THE
EXPLOSION
WAS SO
DEAFENINGLY
IMMENSE
THAT IT
SEEMED
AS IF THE
MOUNTAIN HAD
DISGORGED
ANOTHER
MOUNTAIN.



YET, HUMANITY
DID HAVE A
WORD THAT
COULD DESCRIBE
IT, IN ALL ITS
HORRIFIC
GLORY...

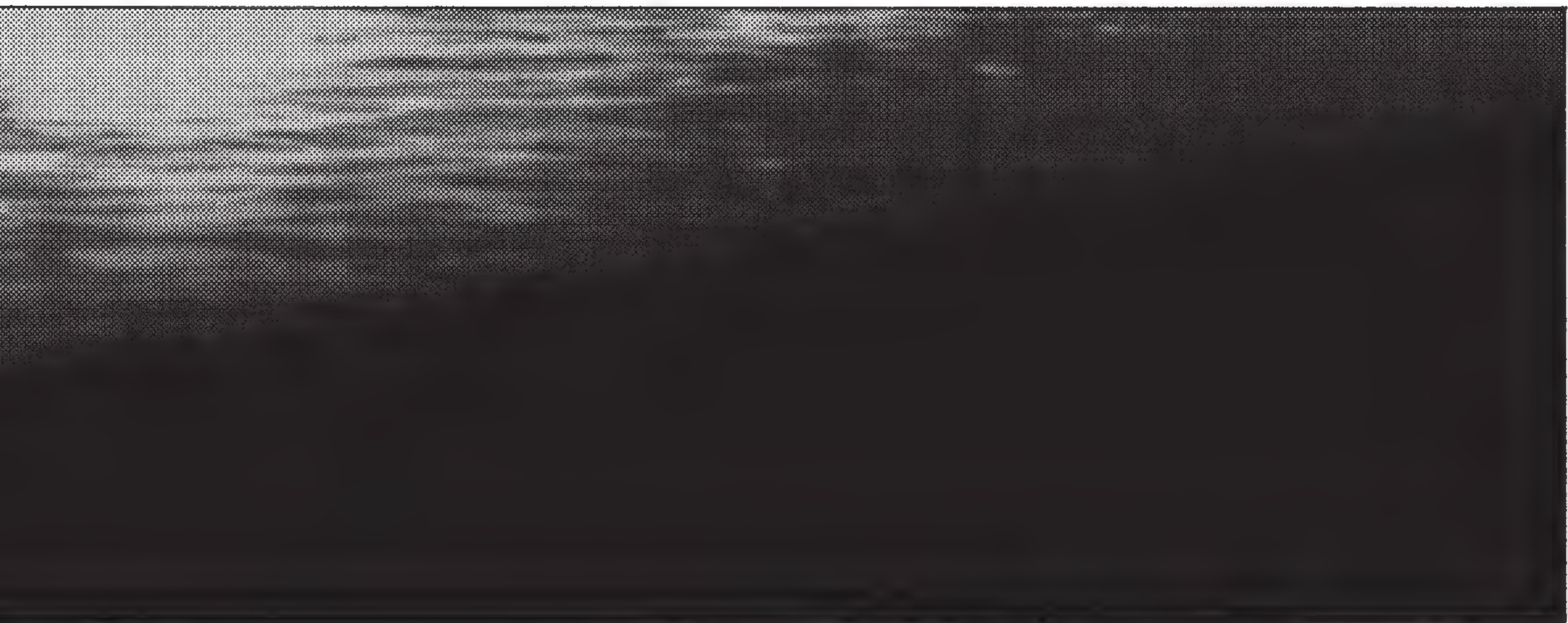
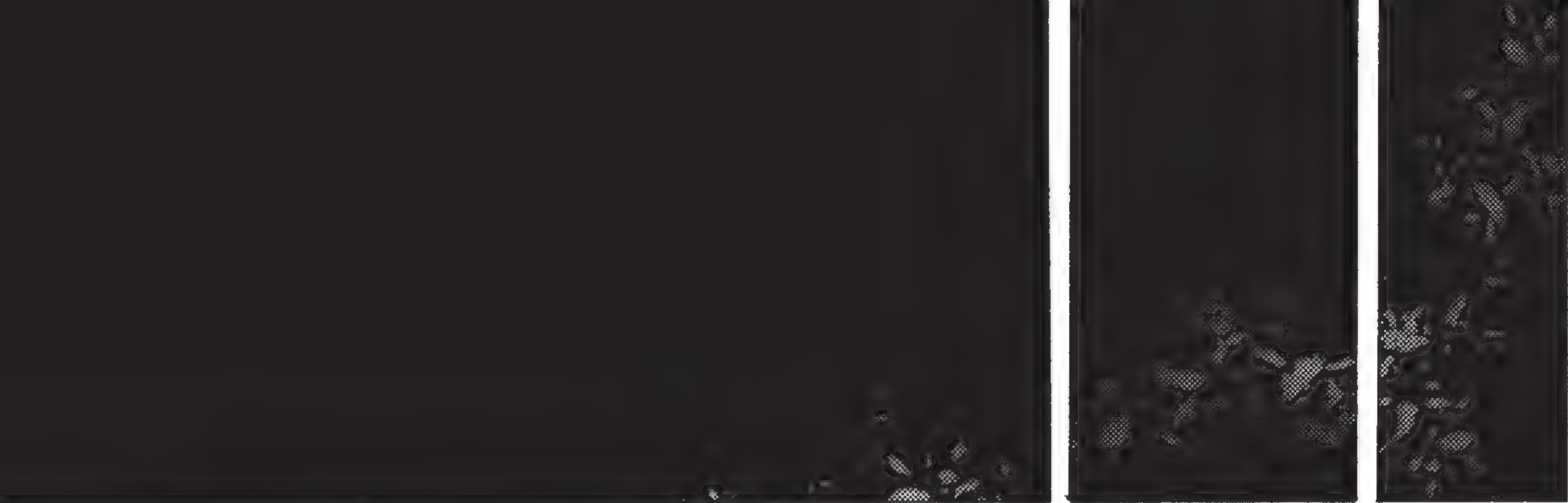
THE CREATURE THAT
EMERGED WAS
MIND-BLOWINGLY
ENORMOUS. ITS
COLOSSAL BODY
SO LONG AND
MASSIVE THAT IT
WAS IMPOSSIBLE
TO SEE THE WHOLE
OF IT AT ONCE.



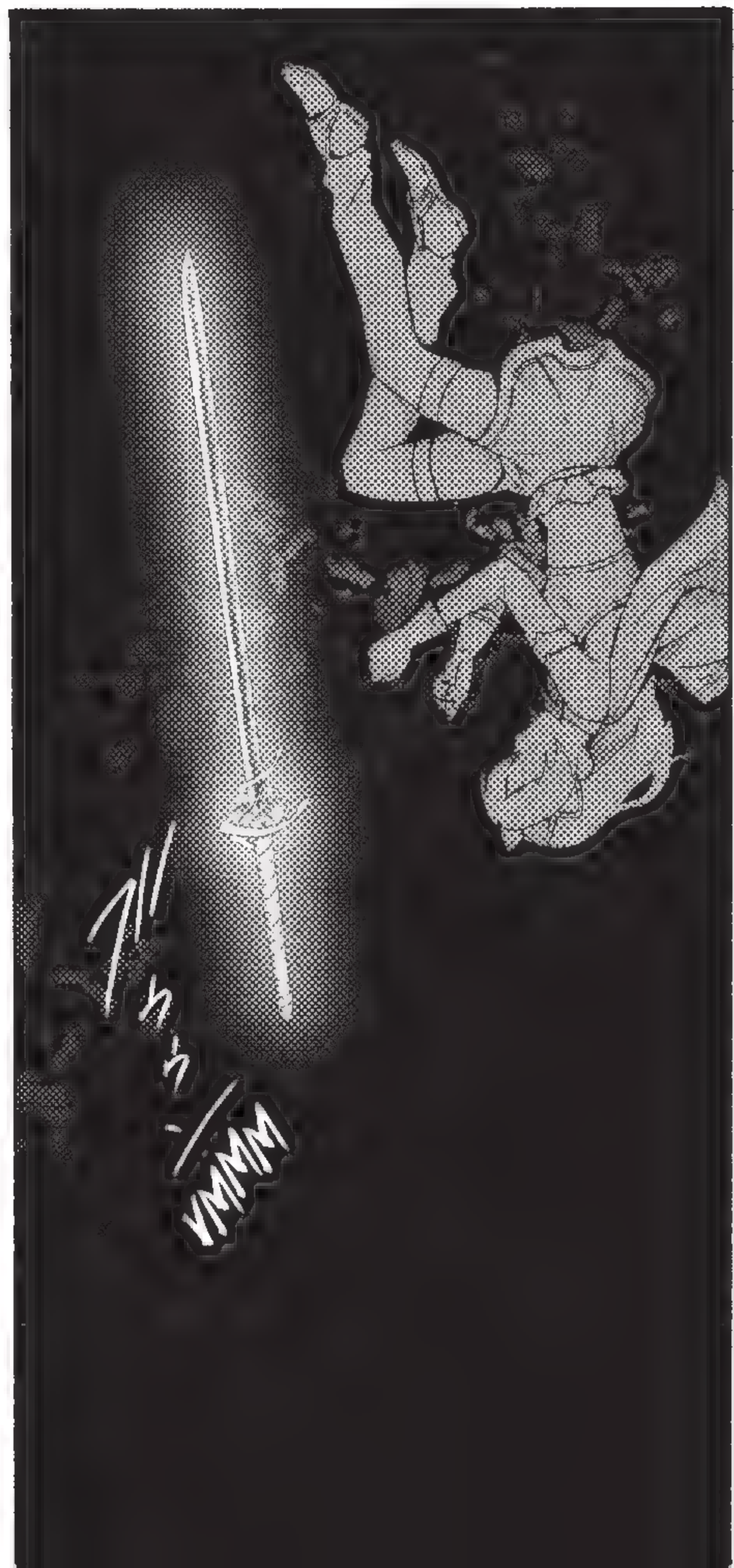




DRAGON.



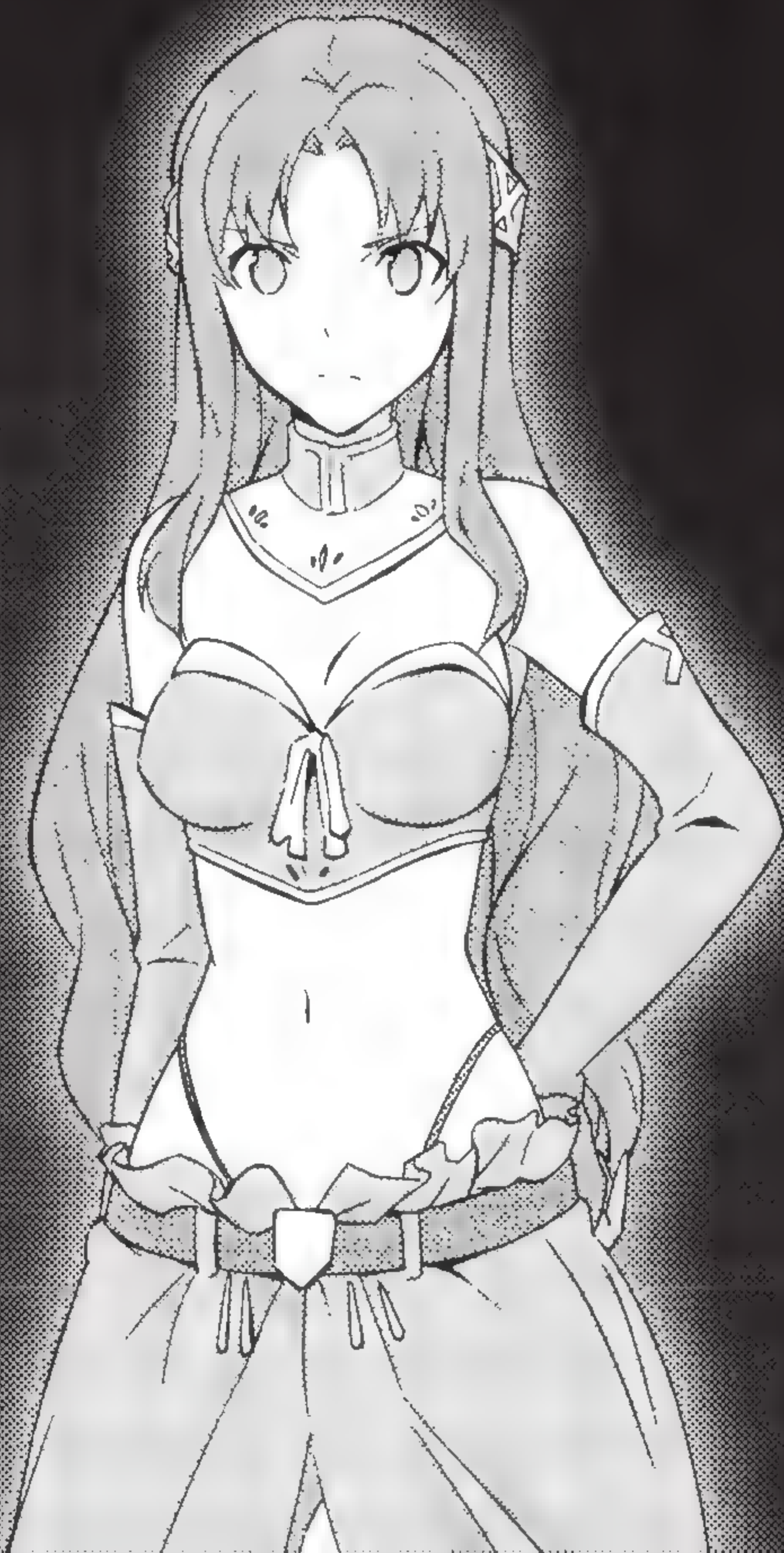
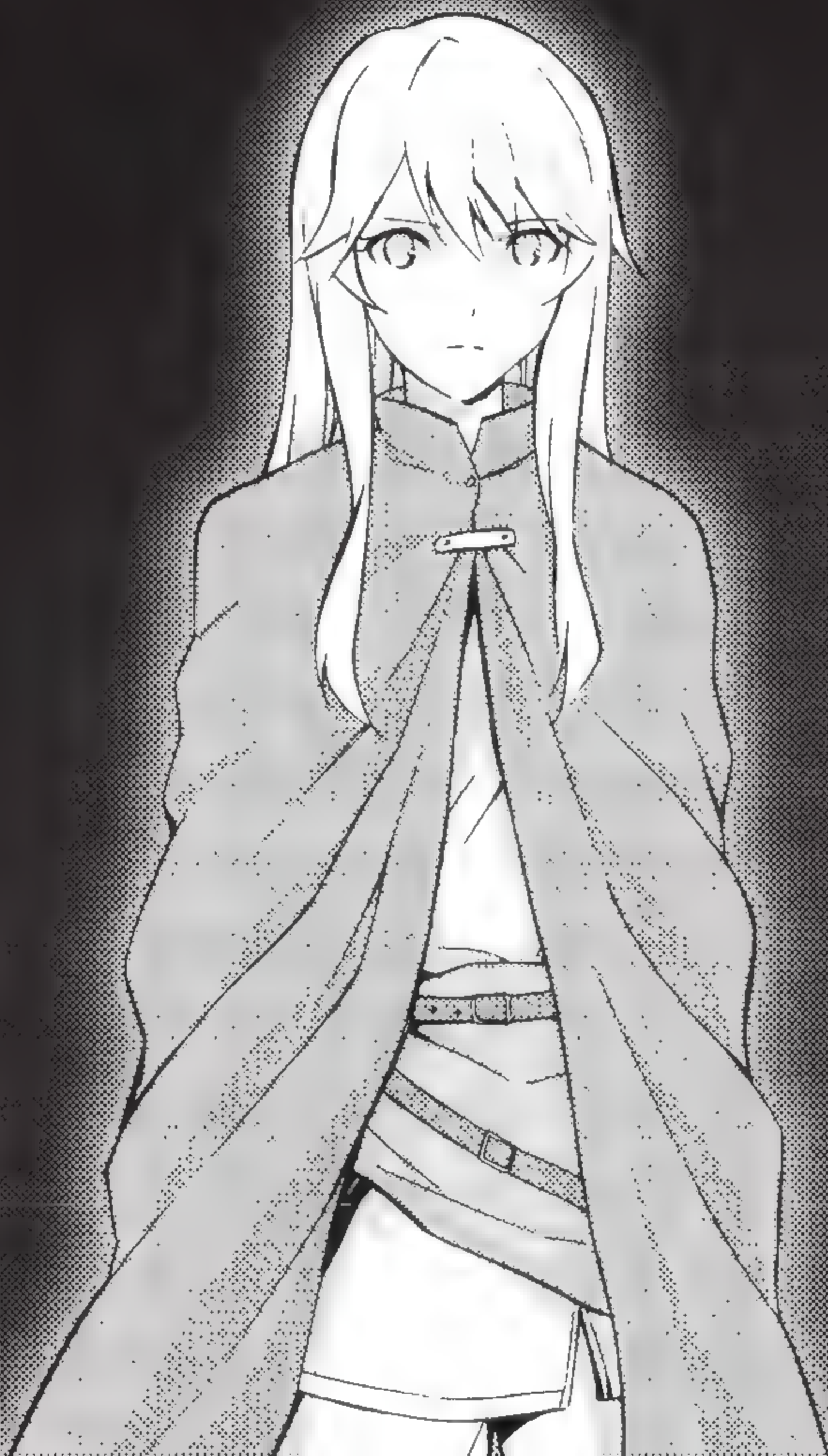
WHERE...



"THE
ABYSS"...

YOU ARE
INSIDE
VALBANILL.

○○○
○



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

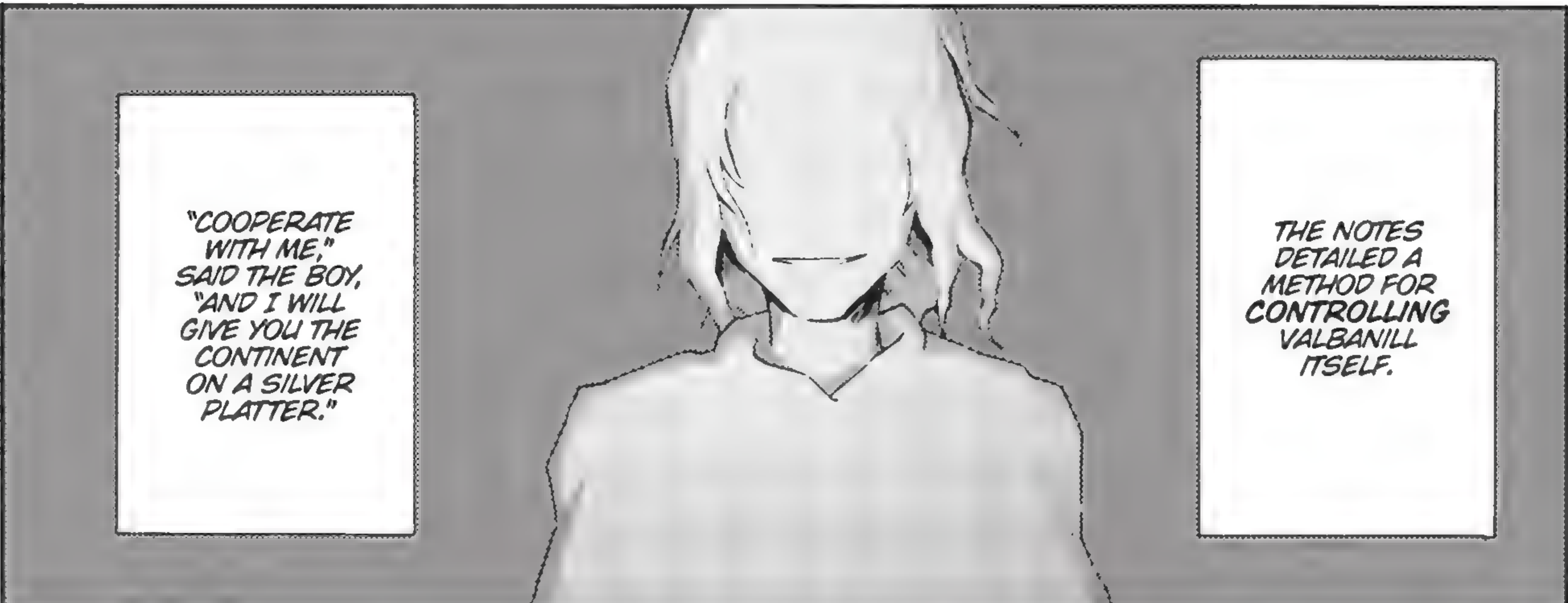


CARRYING
RESEARCH
NOTES
WRITTEN
BY THE
FIRST
HOUSMAN.

A BOY
WALKED
UP TO
HIM...



IT HAPPENED
RIGHT AFTER
AUGUSTUS
RETURNED
FROM THE
MISSION TO
STRENGTHEN
THE SEAL ON
VALBANILL.



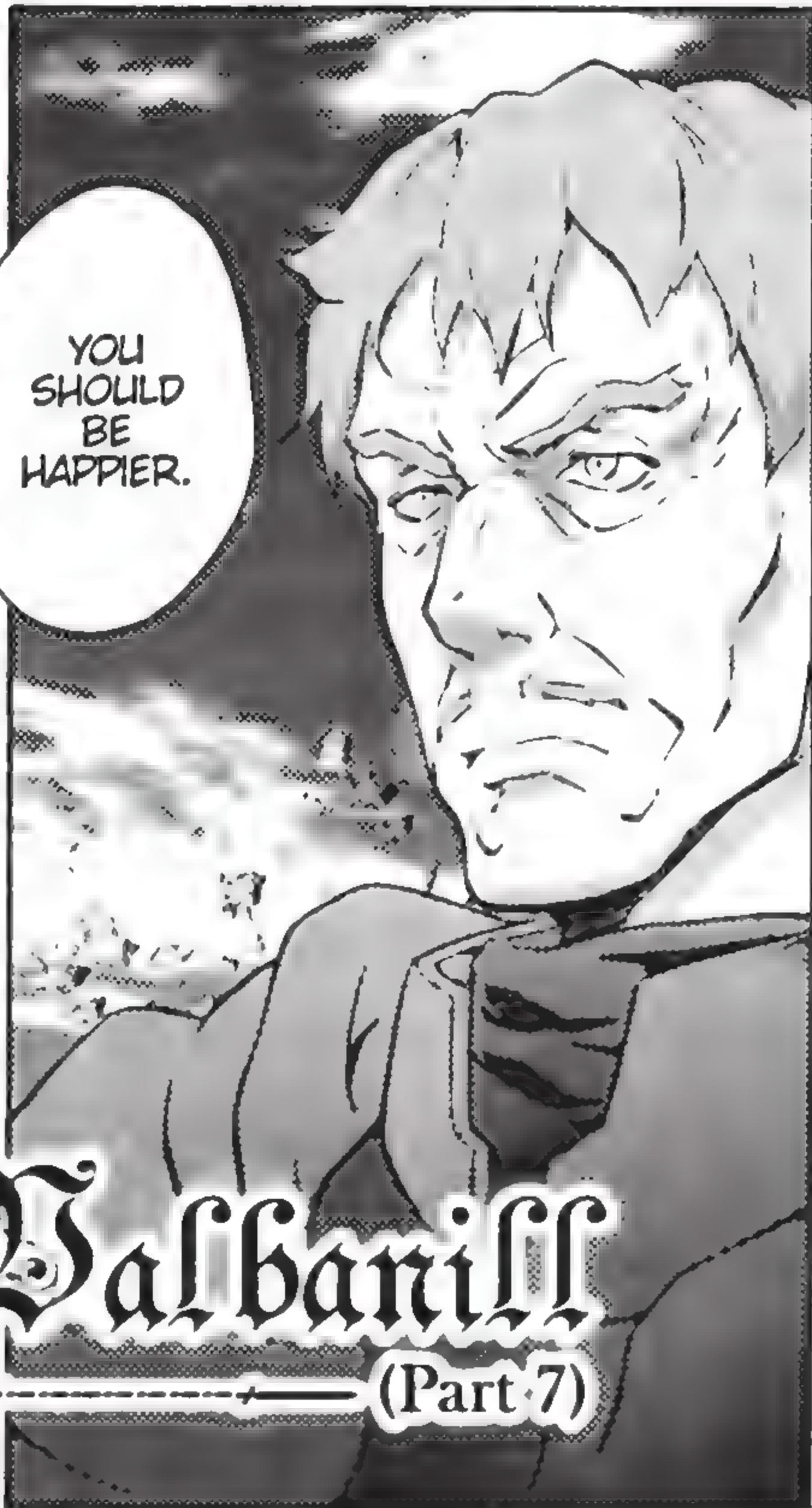
"COOPERATE
WITH ME,"
SAID THE BOY,
"AND I WILL
GIVE YOU THE
CONTINENT
ON A SILVER
PLATTER."

THE NOTES
DETAILED A
METHOD FOR
CONTROLLING
VALBANILL
ITSELF.



TO
EMPEROR
AUGUSTUS
ARTHUR.

NOW
THE ENTIRE
CONTINENT
BELONGS
TO THE
IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWERS.
NO...



YOU
SHOULD
BE
HAPPIER.

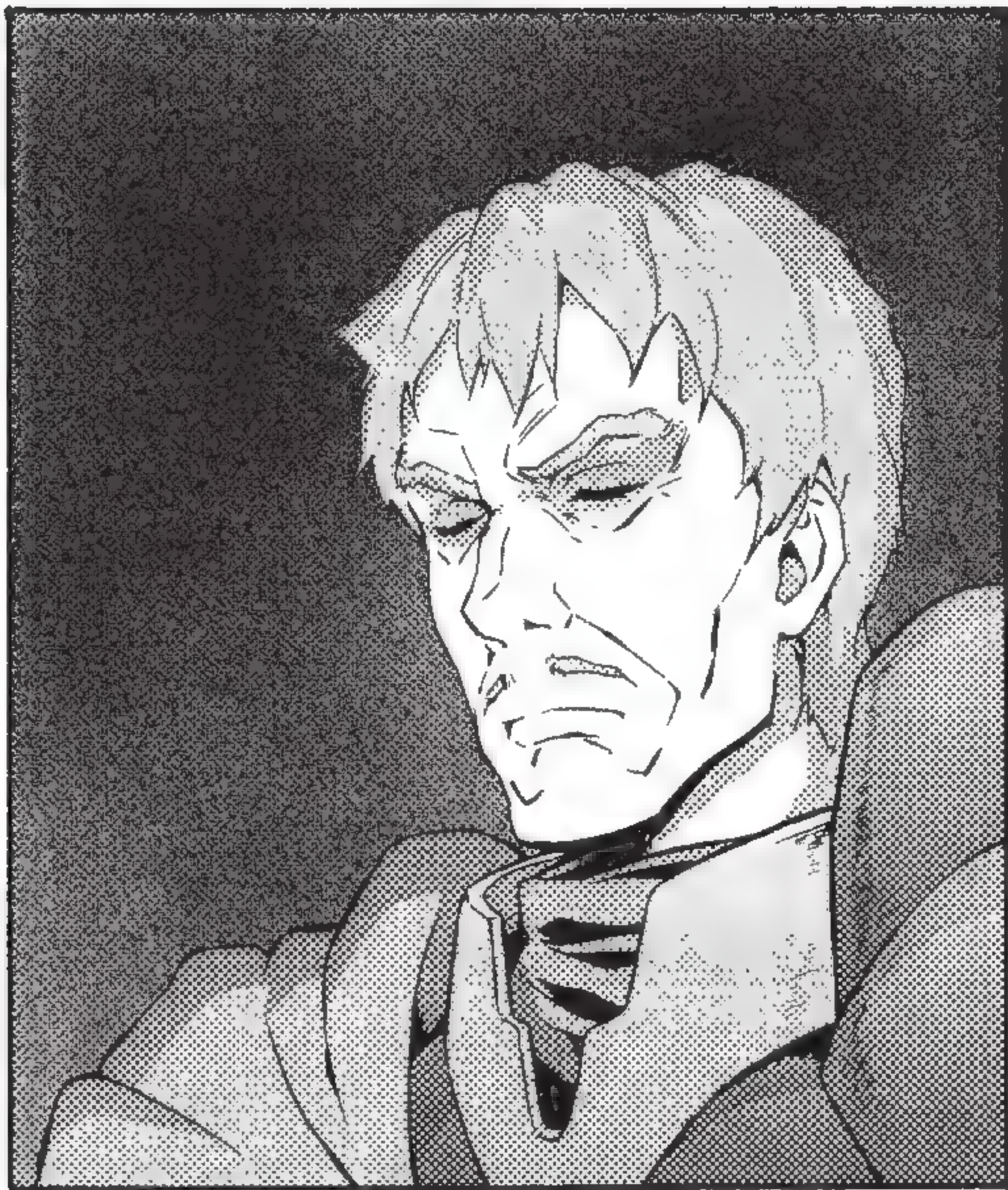


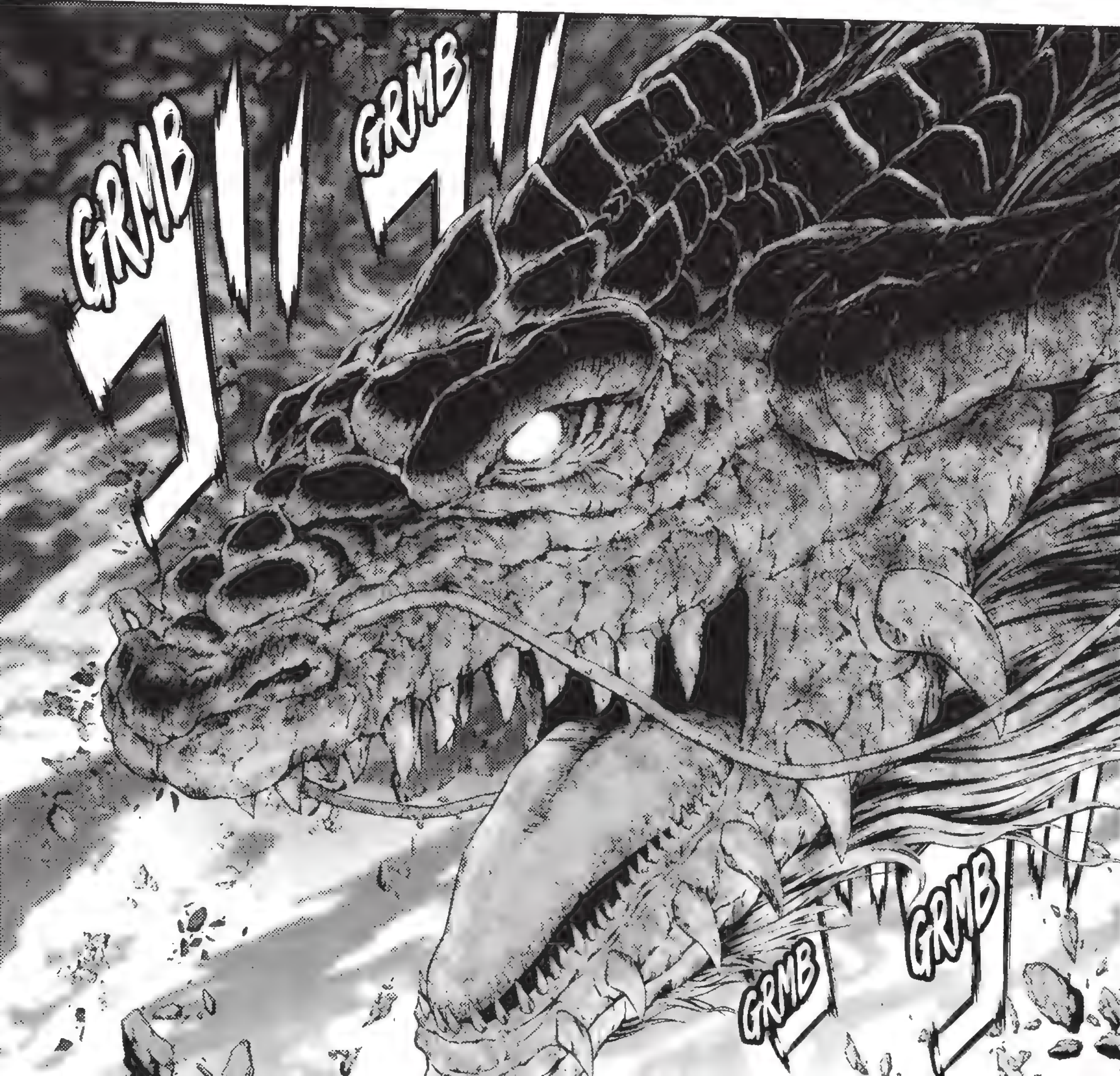
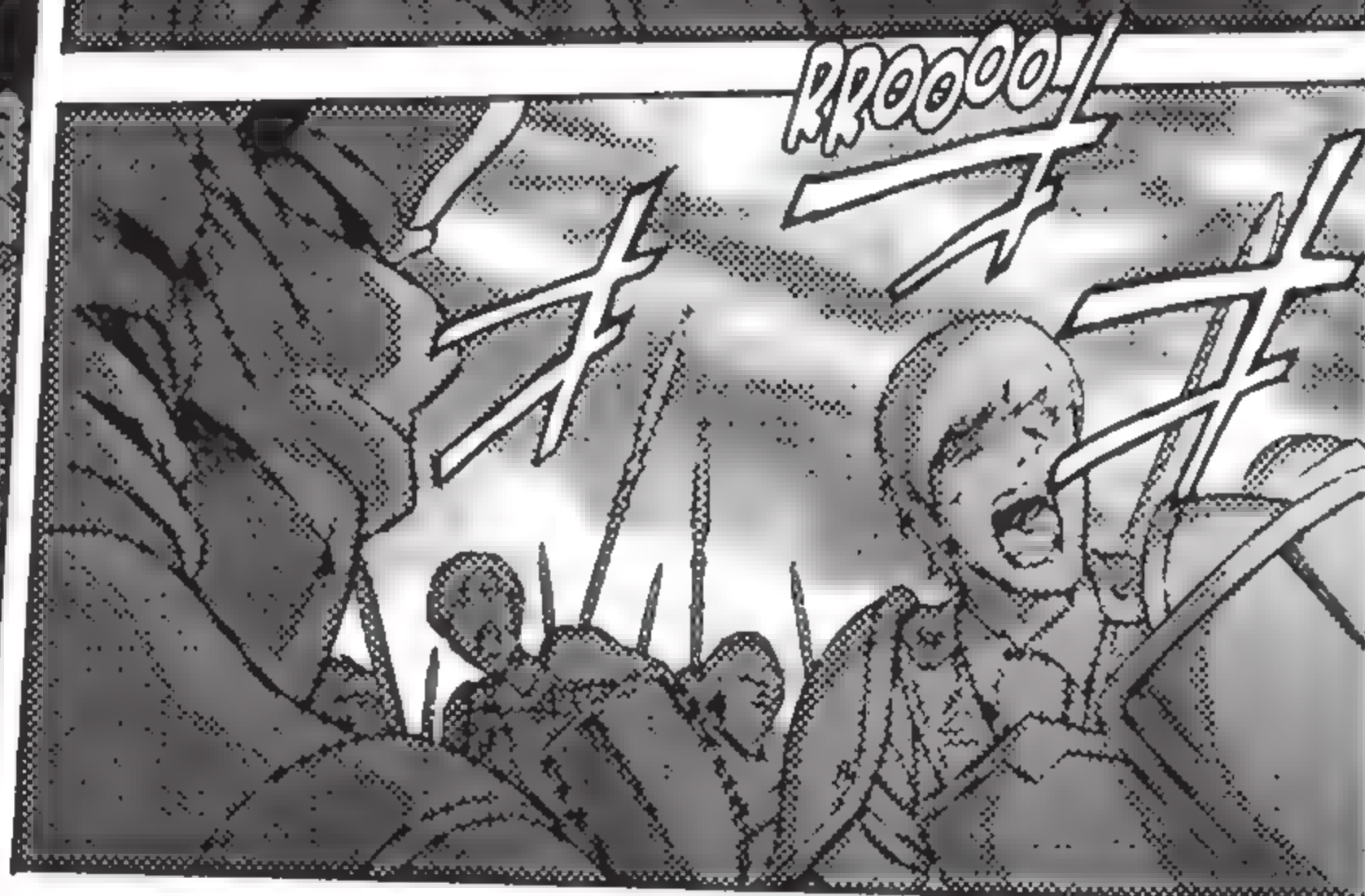
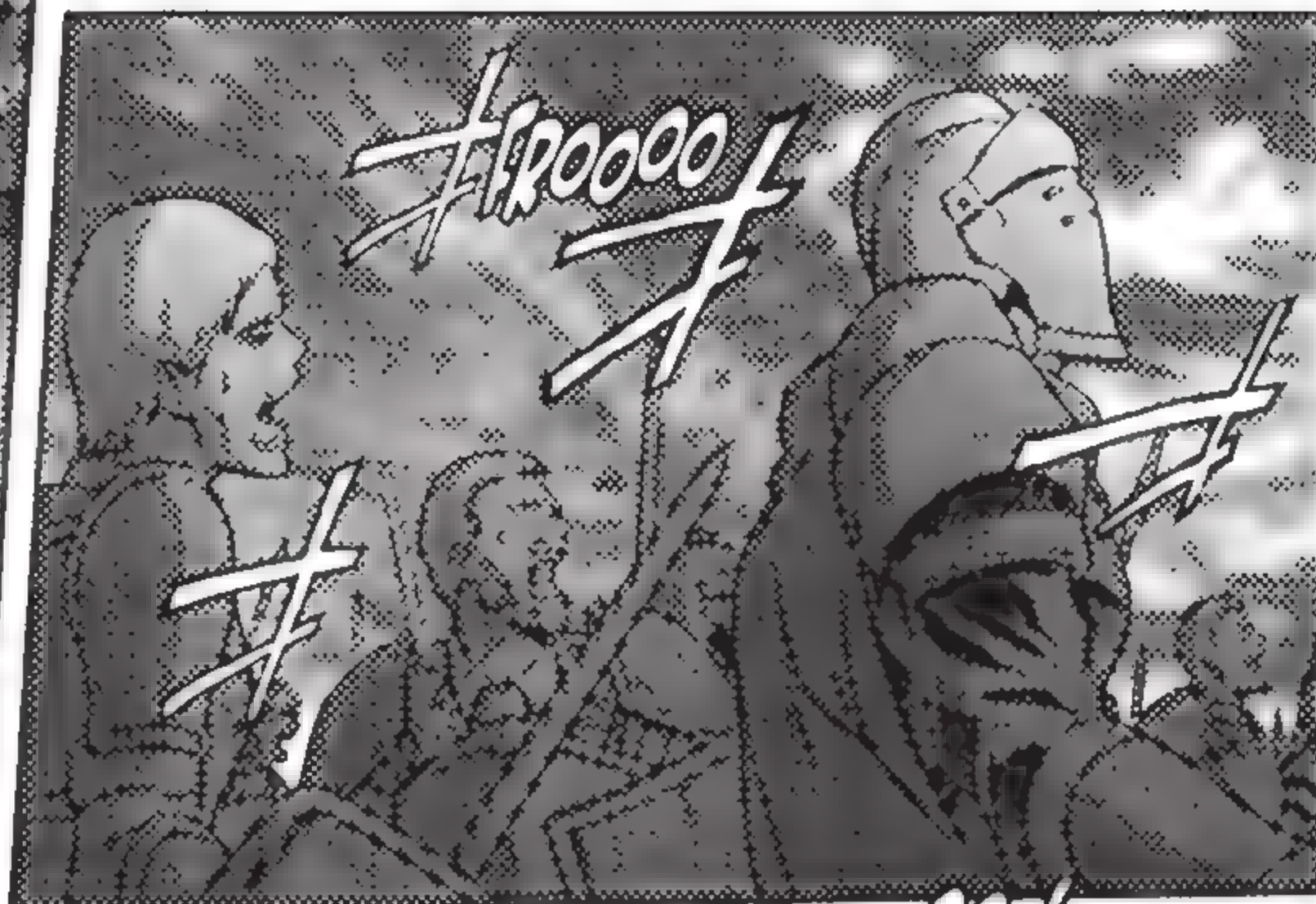
Chapter

59

Valbanill

(Part 7)









ALL IT
DID WAS
EXHALE.
IT WAS
JUST ONE
BREATH.



WITH THAT
ONE
BREATH...

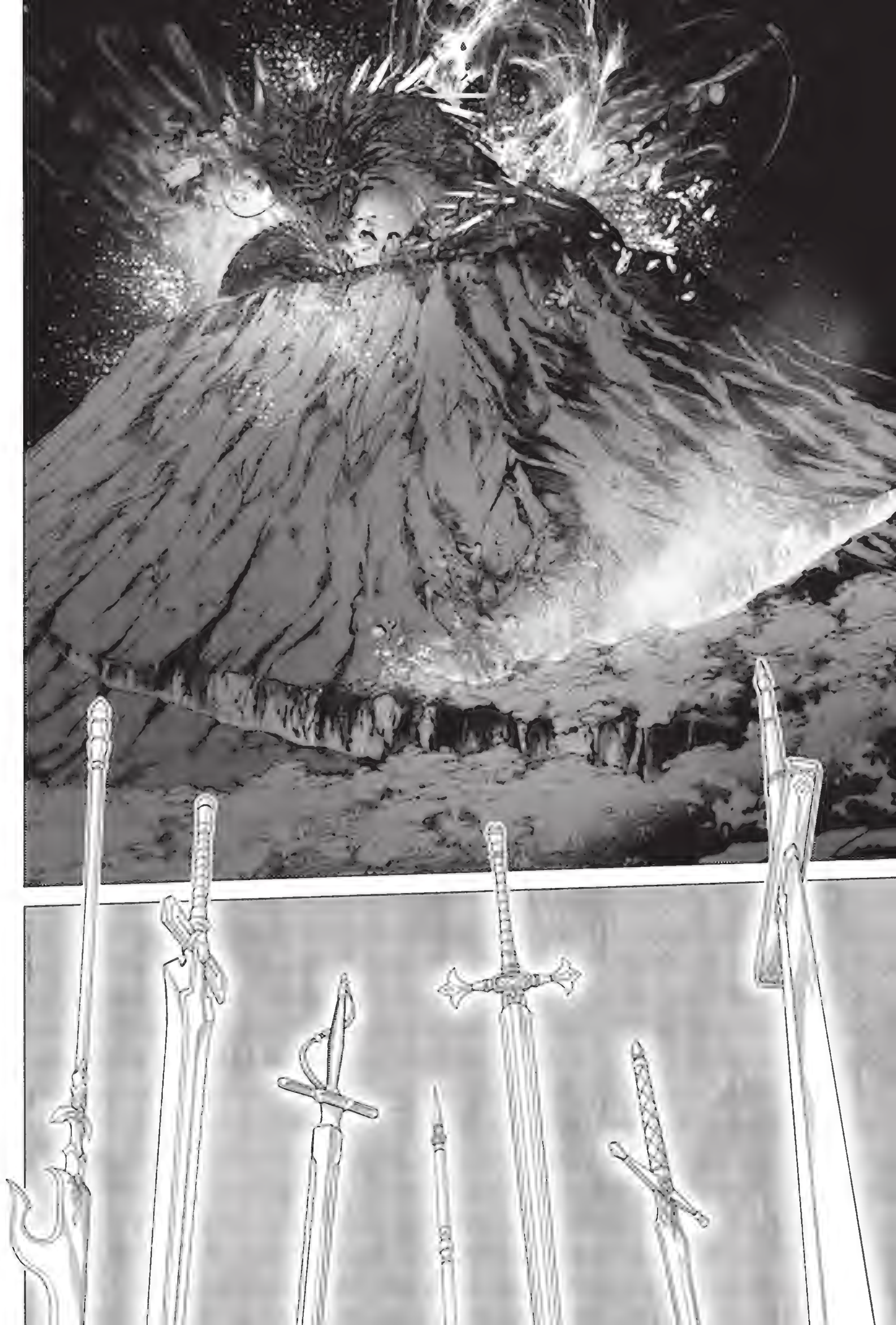
A SECOND
"SCAR" WAS
CARVED
ONTO THE
SLOPES OF
BLAIR
VOLCANO.



FOOM

BUT IT WAS
MORE THAN
ENOUGH
TO STRIKE
ABSOLUTE
TERROR
IN THE
HEARTS OF
EVERYONE.

AFTER ALL,
WHAT THEY
WITNESSED
WAS AN ACT OF
UNIMAGINABLE
DESTRUCTION.



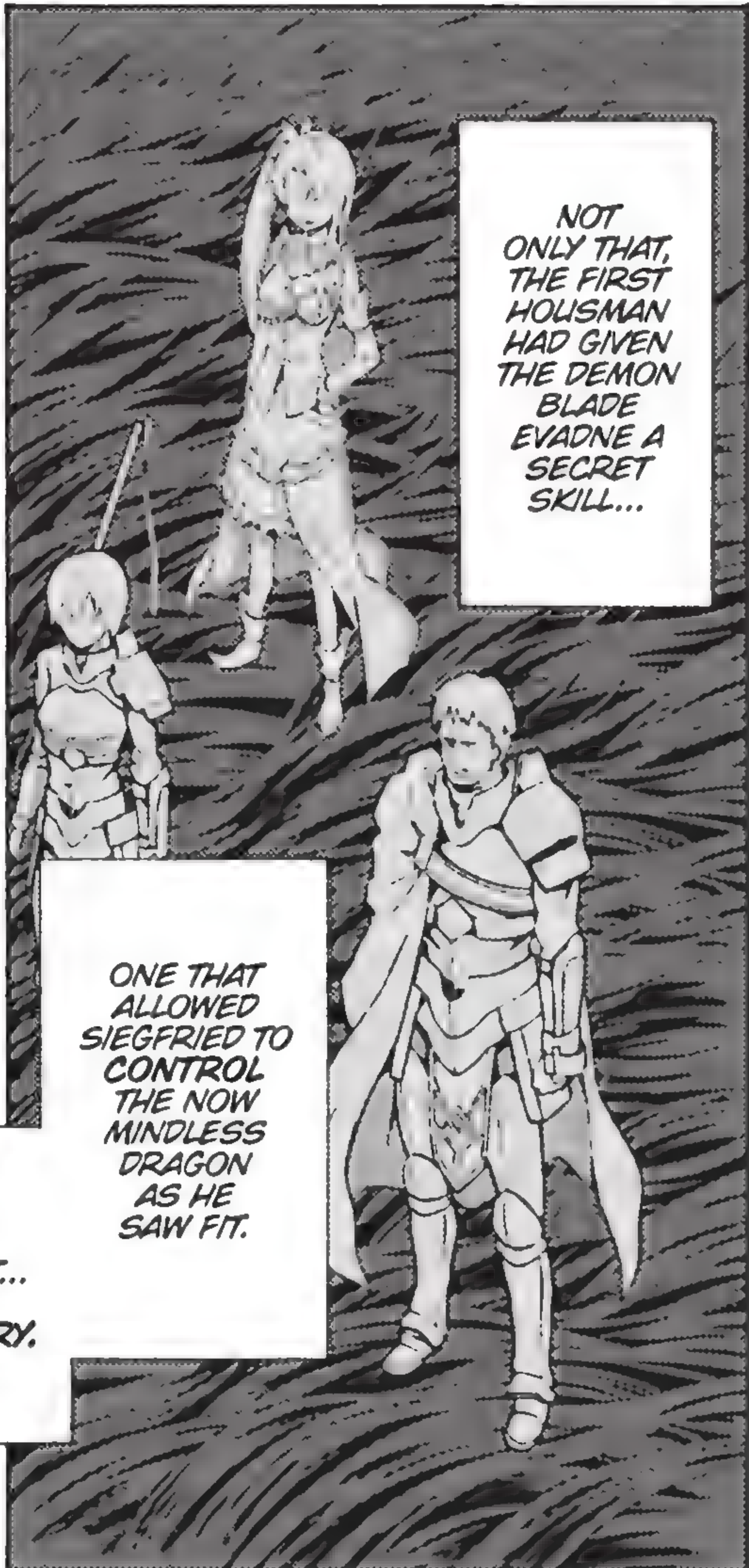
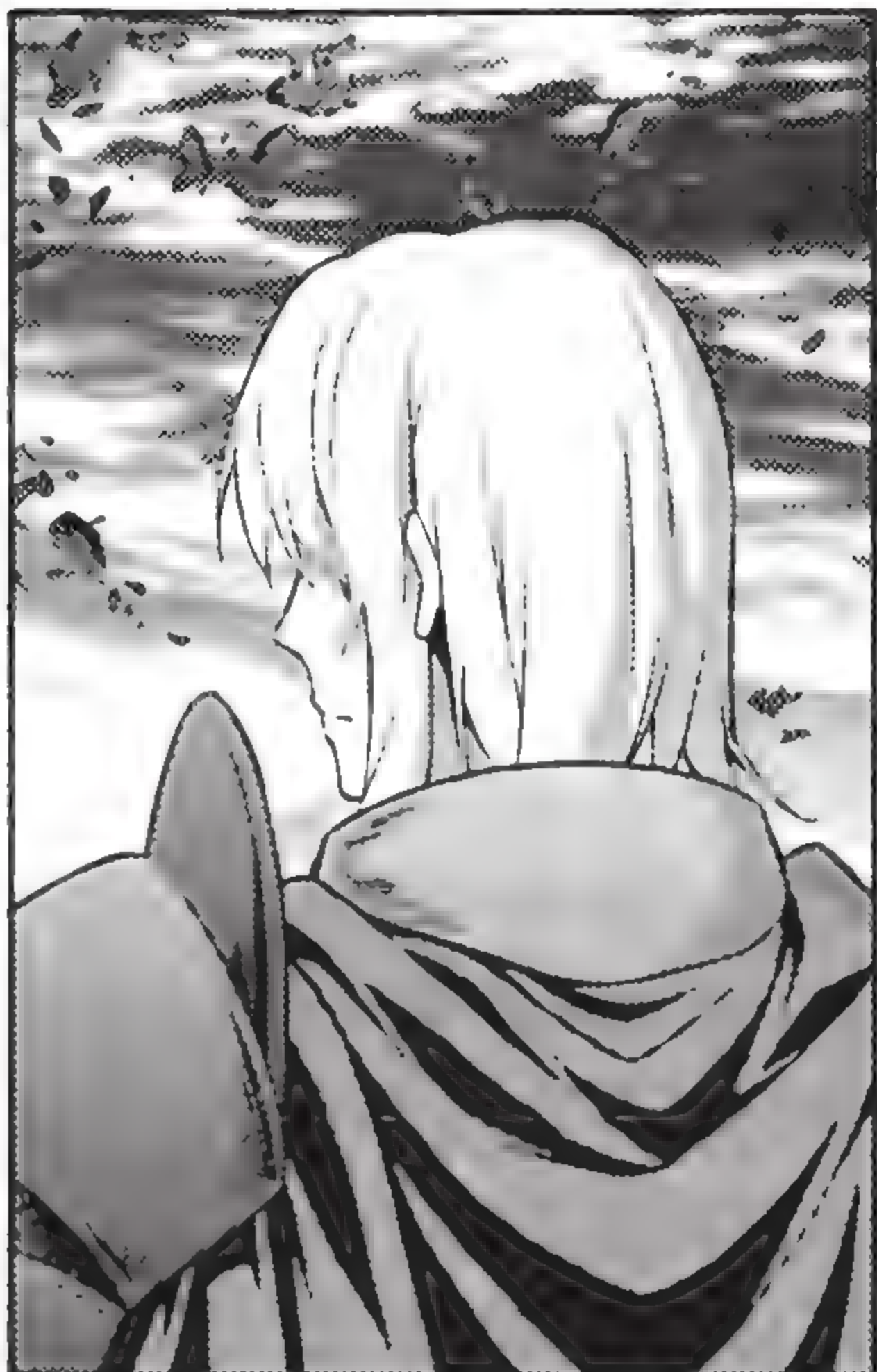


THEIR
INGRAINED
HATRED OF
"GOD"
FLOWED INTO
VALBANILL
LIKE A
TIDAL WAVE,
DESTROYING
ITS MIND.

OUT OF
THE CRACKS
BETWEEN
THE BEAST'S
MASSIVE
SCALES,
COUNTLESS
SWORD HILTS
BRISTLED--
DEMON
BLADES.



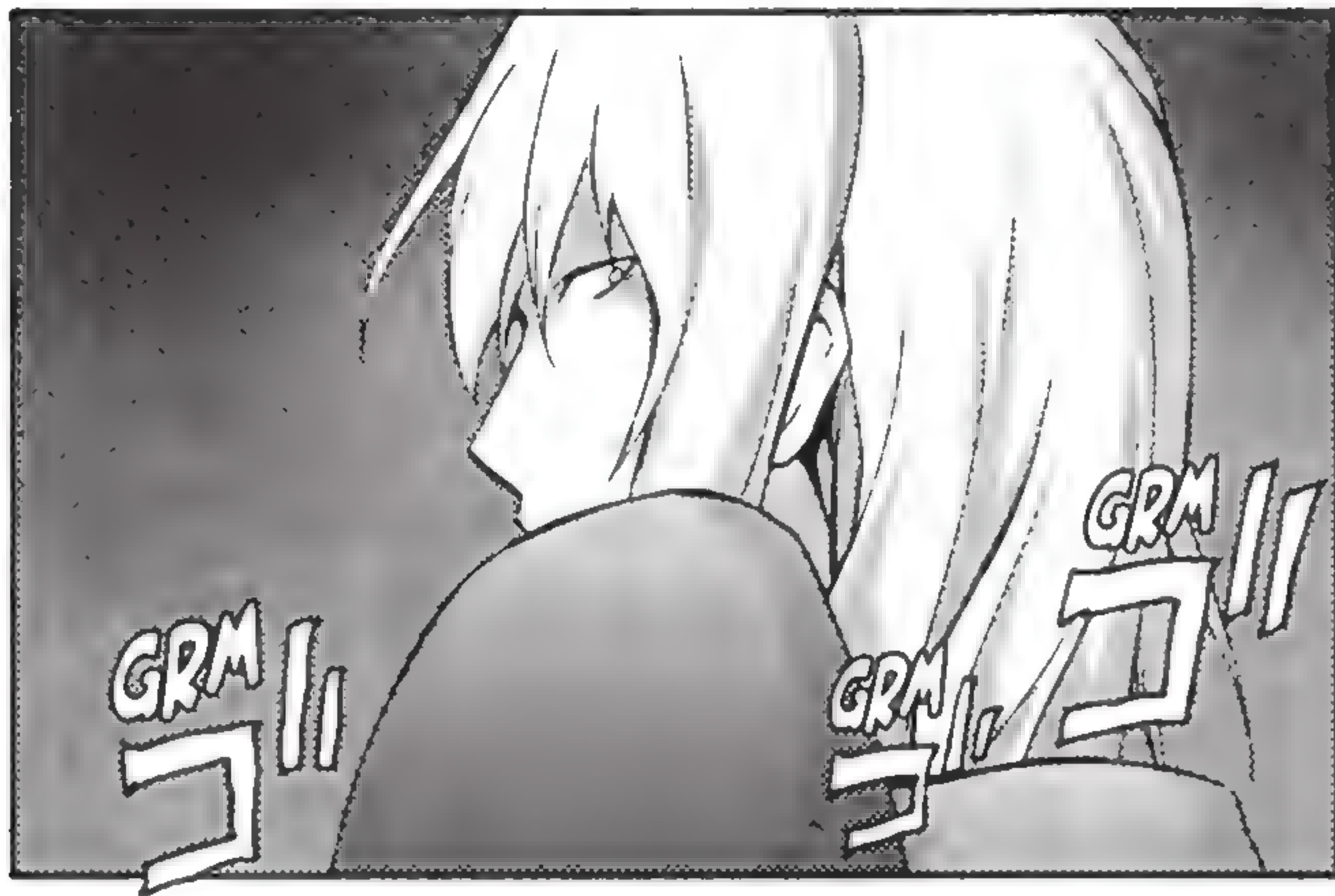
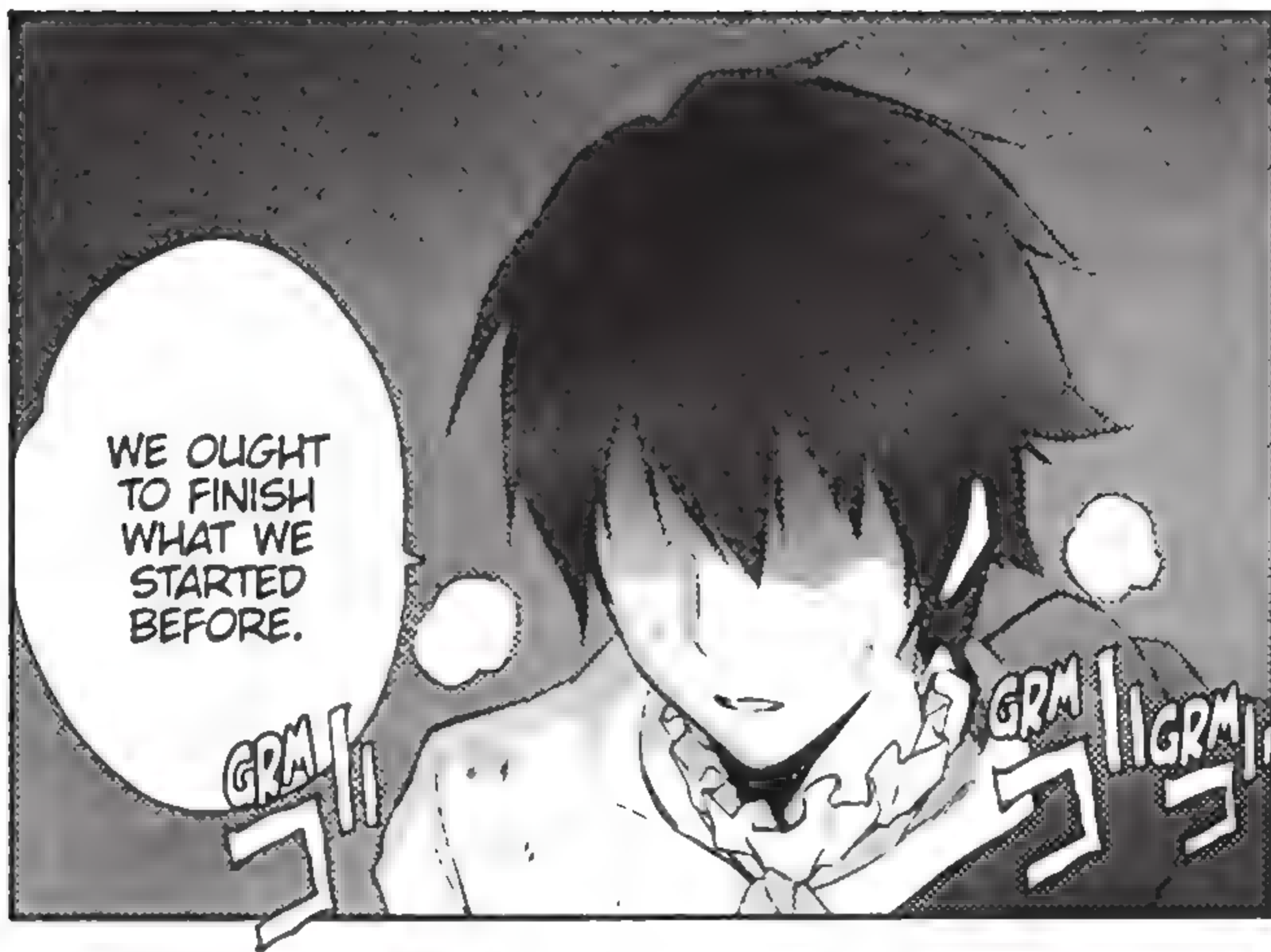
SIEGFRIED.

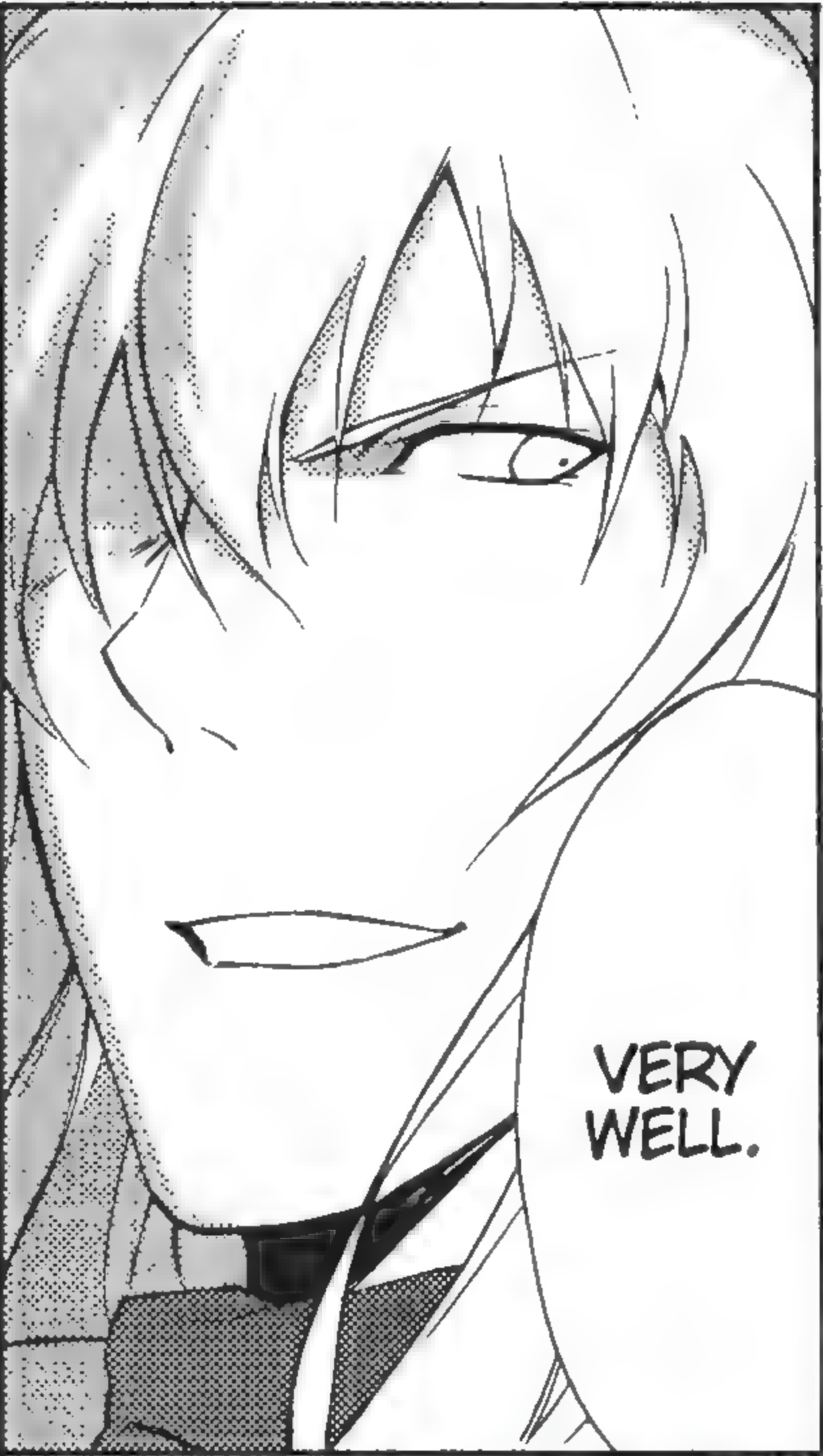


NOT
ONLY THAT,
THE FIRST
HOLISMAN
HAD GIVEN
THE DEMON
BLADE
EVADNE A
SECRET
SKILL...

ONE THAT
ALLOWED
SIEGFRIED TO
CONTROL
THE NOW
MINDLESS
DRAGON
AS HE
SAW FIT.

AT
LEAST...
IN
THEORY.

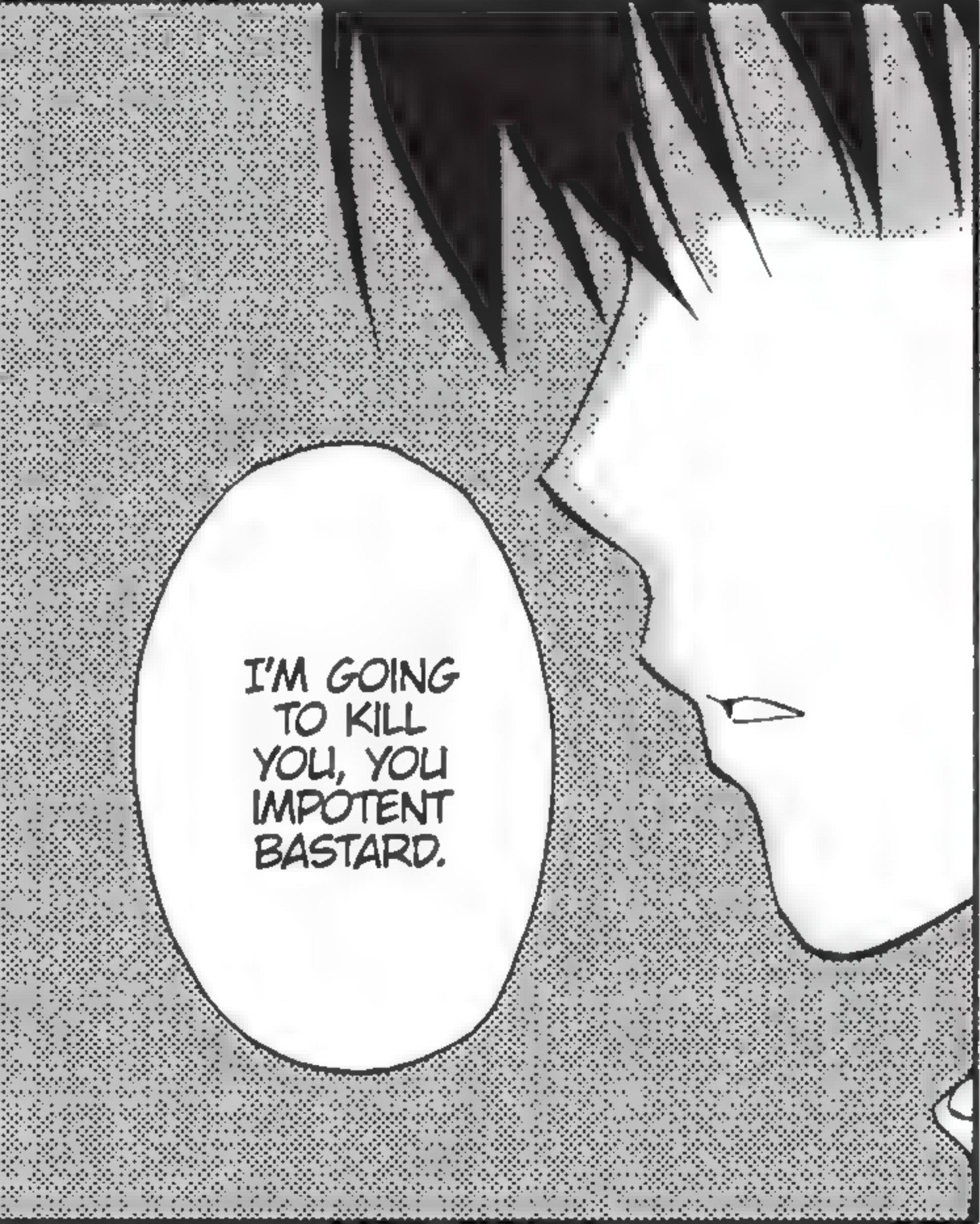




VERY WELL.



HIM...



I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, YOU IMPOTENT BASTARD.



HOWL AND SNARL ALL YOU LIKE, LITTLE DOG.



WHAT ARE THE TERMS?

YOU AND ME, TO THE DEATH.

HAH! AS YOU WISH.



Kneel
before
the
thunder-
head!

Brush
the sleep
from
your
eyes!

KILL
GOD!

Return
the light
to the
void...



KILL
GOD!



BEFORE
I TOO
AM USED
TO AID IN
CON-
TROLLING
THE
DRAGON!

I WOULD
BE PRO-
FOUNDLY
GRATEFUL
FOR THAT
ONE LAST
FAVOR...

MY
LORD,
WOULD
YOU
PLEASE
WIELD
ME?



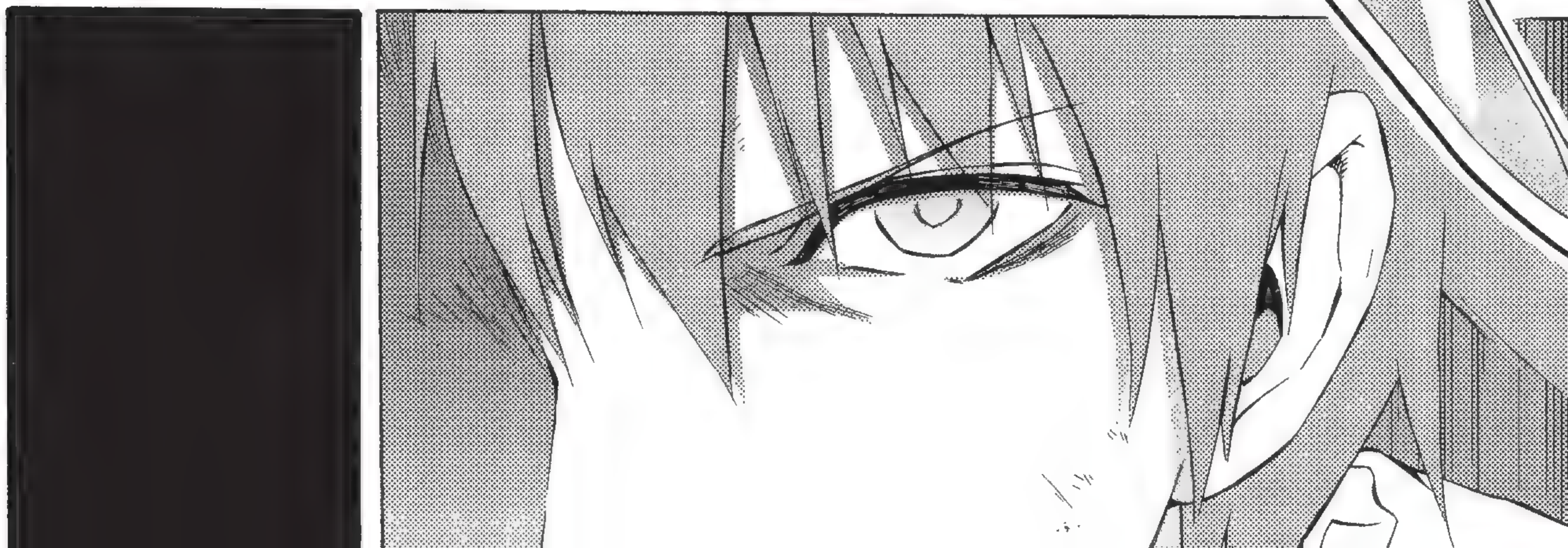
COME.



Place
the
crown
upon
your
head...

Bury
the
earth.

Brush
the
sleep
from
your
eyes.





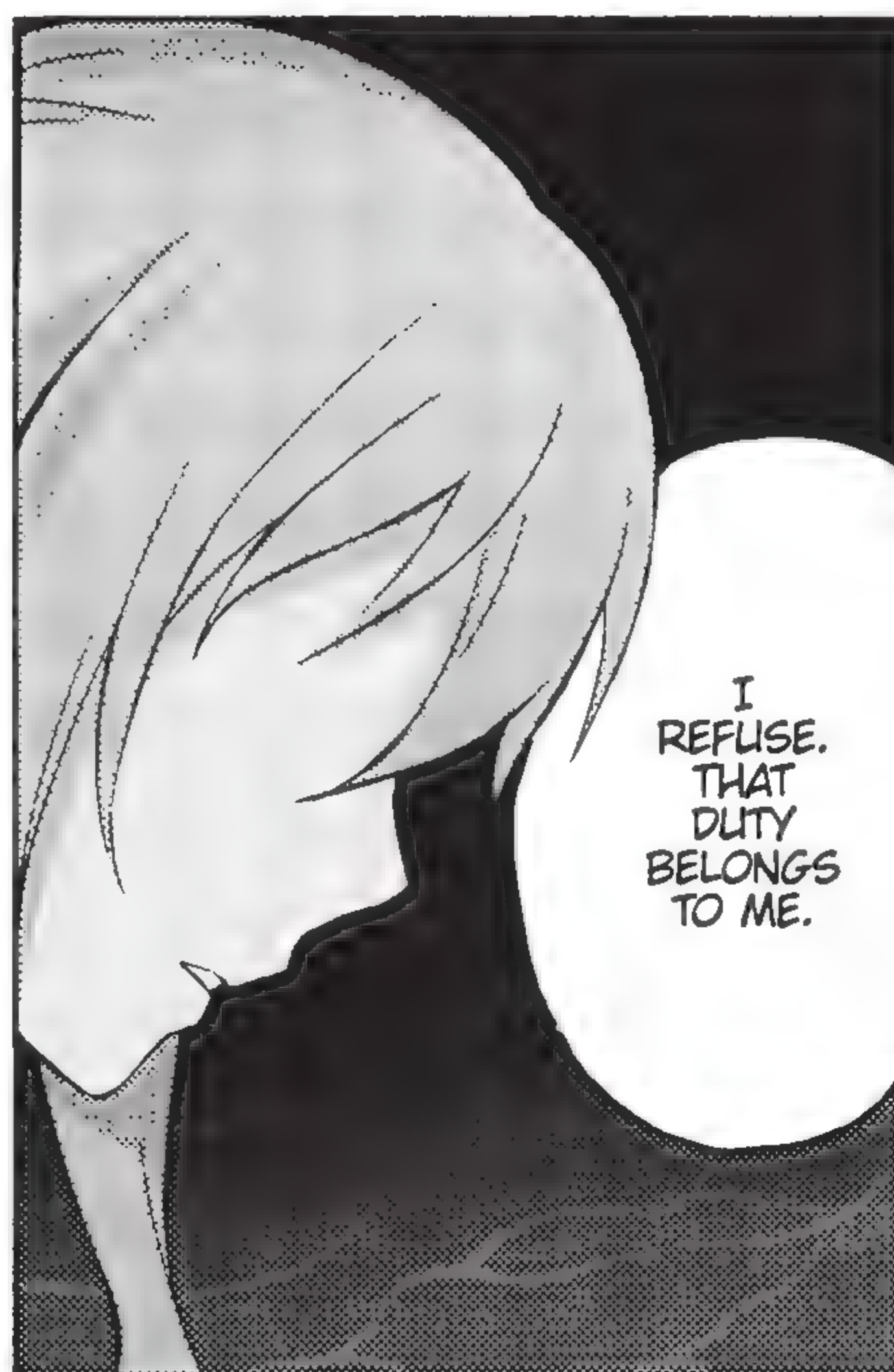
GIVE ME
MY PLACE
BACK!
LET ME BE
CECILY'S
PARTNER
AGAIN!

AND TO
LET YOU
HAVE MY
PLACE BY
HER SIDE
AS HER
PARTNER...
AND
YOU DO
THIS?

I
DECIDED
TO
RELENT...



THEN ACT
LIKE IT
MEANS
SOMETHING
TO YOU!



I
REFUSE.
THAT
DUTY
BELONGS
TO ME.



YOU
SHOULD
KNOW
WHAT IT
IS BY
NOW.



TELL ME
YOUR
NAME,
SACRED
BLADE!



I WANT
TO CALL
MYSELF
"ARIA"!

"ARIA."



MY...
MY
NAME...





Brush
the sleep
from
your
eyes.

Hold
faith in
the
truth.



FWNISH

Place the
wind in
Cecily's
hands...

**KILL
GOD.**

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



Chapter

60

Val battill

(Part 8)



**GLURK
!!**



WHAT'S
WRONG,
BLACK-
SMITH?

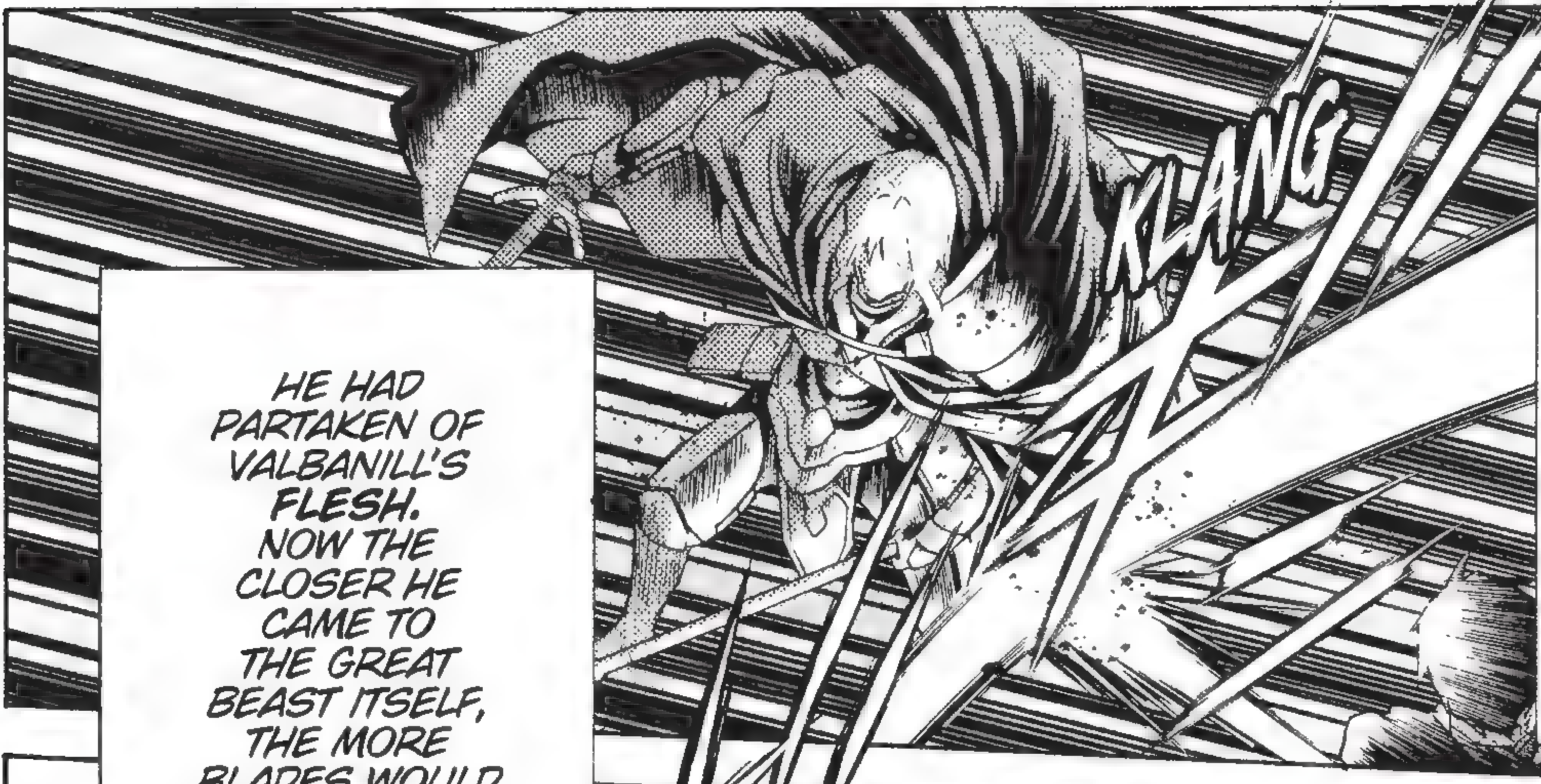
IT LOOKS
LIKE YOU'VE
GIVEN UP
A LOT
OF YOUR
HUMANITY
SINCE I
LAST SAW
YOU!

**SIEG-
FRIED
!!**



I'LL DO
ANYTHING
IF IT
MEANS
I GET
TO KILL
YOU.





HE HAD
PARTAKEN OF
VALBANILL'S
FLESH.
NOW THE
CLOSER HE
CAME TO
THE GREAT
BEAST ITSELF,
THE MORE
BLADES WOULD
GROW FROM
HIS BACK.

LUKE HAD
ACQUIRED AN
INCREDIBLE
AMOUNT
OF POWER,
BUT AT THE
EXPENSE OF
HIS SOUL.

ZWOOSH

AND
THEN...

THERE
WAS THE
DEMON
EYE THAT
LISA HAD
GIVEN
TO HIM.

BUT THAT
WAS NOT ALL.
RESONATING
WITH
VALBANILL'S
AWAKENING,
THE FLESH
INSIDE LUKE
GREW IN POWER
TOO, GIVING
HIM GREAT
STRENGTH...
WHILE SLOWLY
CONSUMING
HIS SOUL.

NGK!!

HE COULD
EXPAND
ITS FIELD
OF VISION,
ALLOWING
HIM TO SEE
EVERYTHING
AROUND
HIM WITH
PERFECT
CLARITY.

BY
EXPENDING A
STAGGERING
AMOUNT OF
ENERGY...

KRA
KROOOOM

RA
AA
AG
HI

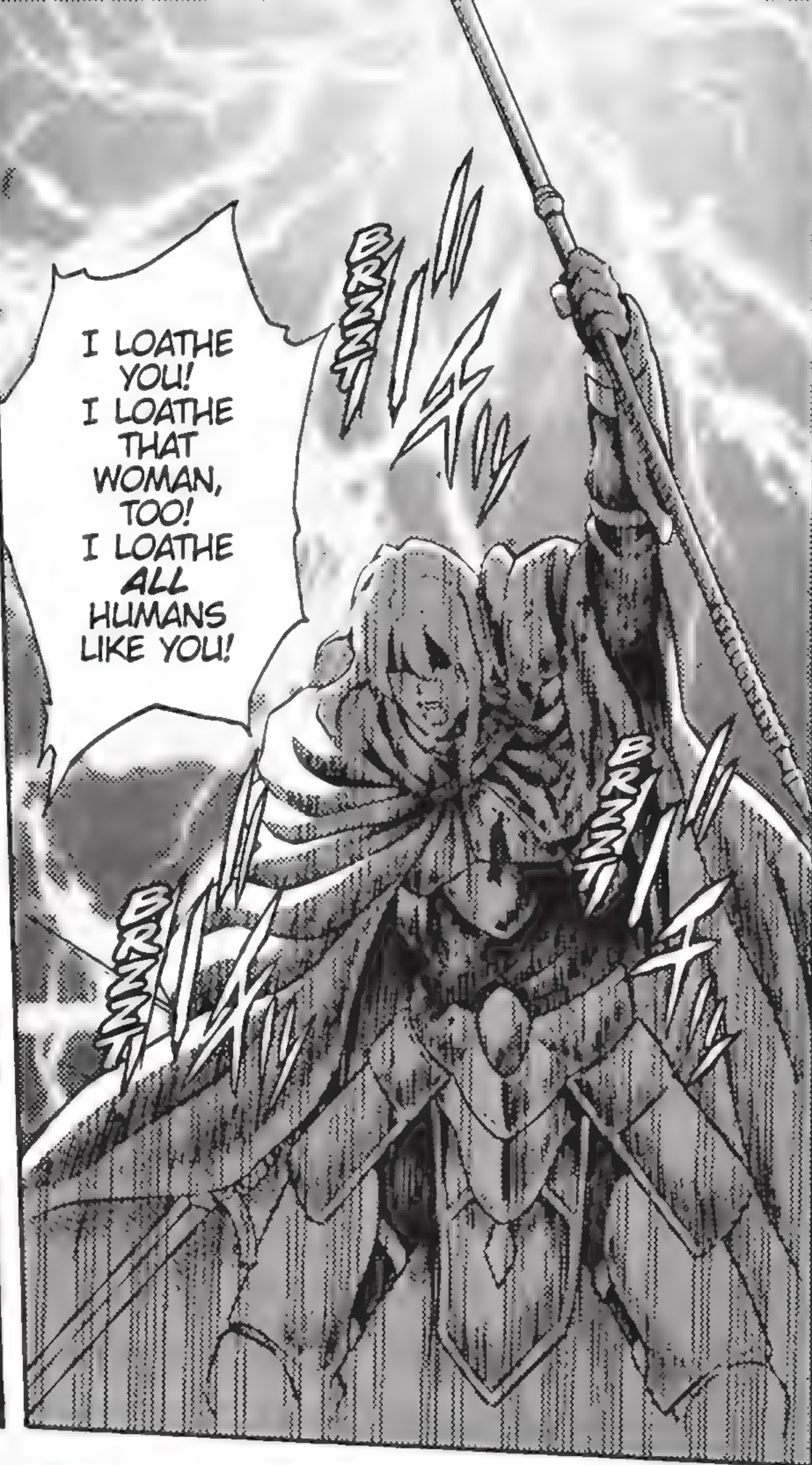
HR
AA
AA
HI



ALL YOUR
TALK OF
"LOVE"
AND
"HOPE"...
IT'S
**SICKEN-
ING!**

WHENEVER
I HEAR
SOMEONE
BABBLE ON
ABOUT
THEIR
"FUTURE"...

IT MAKES
ME WANT TO
CRUSH THEM
AND EVERY
LAST HOPE
THEY'VE
EVER HAD!



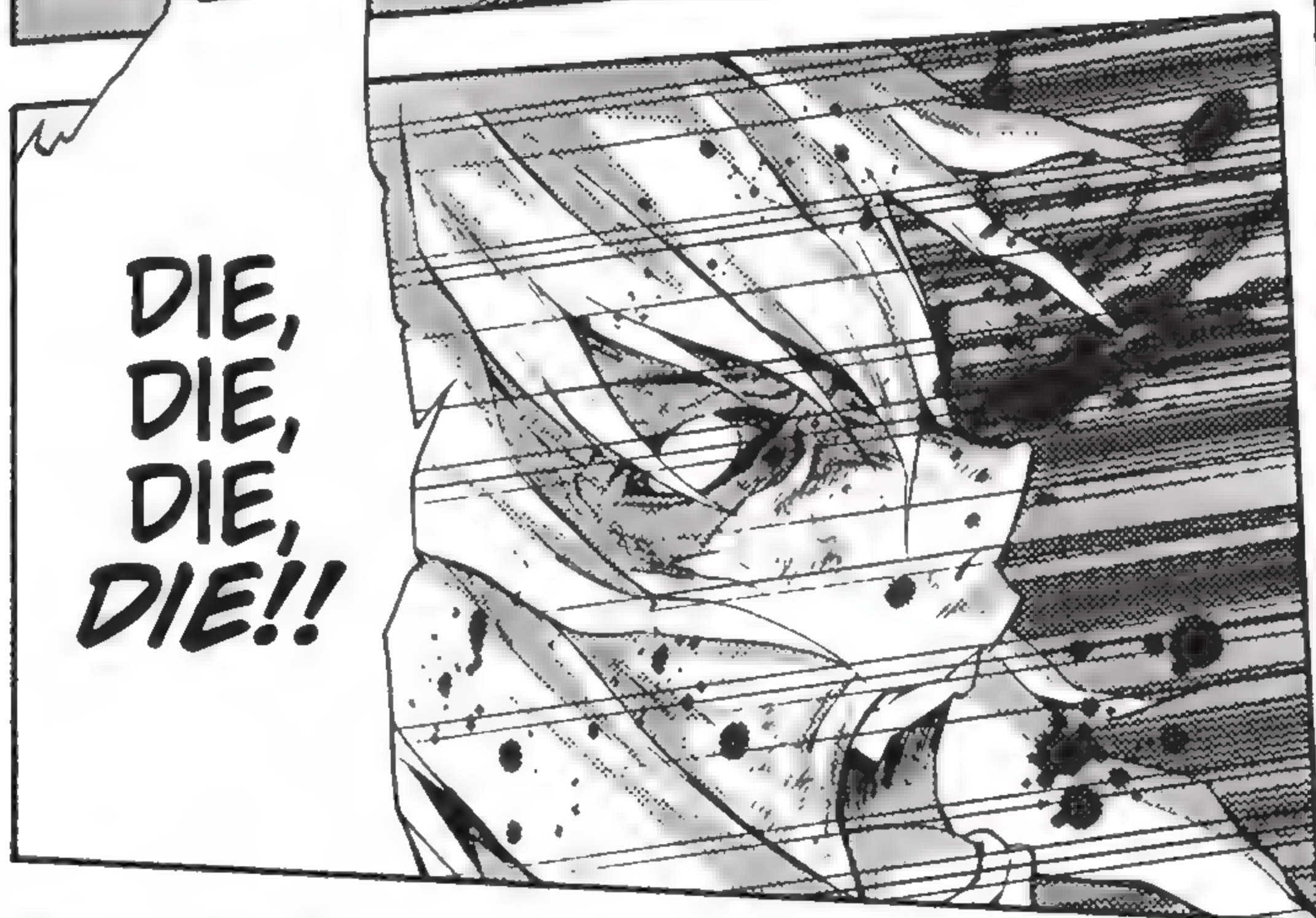
I LOATHE
YOU!
I LOATHE
THAT
WOMAN,
TOO!
I LOATHE
ALL
HUMANS
LIKE YOU!



HEH!
YOU MAKE
EVEN
REAL
DEMONS
SEEM LIKE
ANGELS
BY COM-
PARISON!!



I'M
GOING TO
CARVE
YOU TO
PIECES,
YOU
MONSTER!!



DIE,
DIE,
DIE,
DIE!!

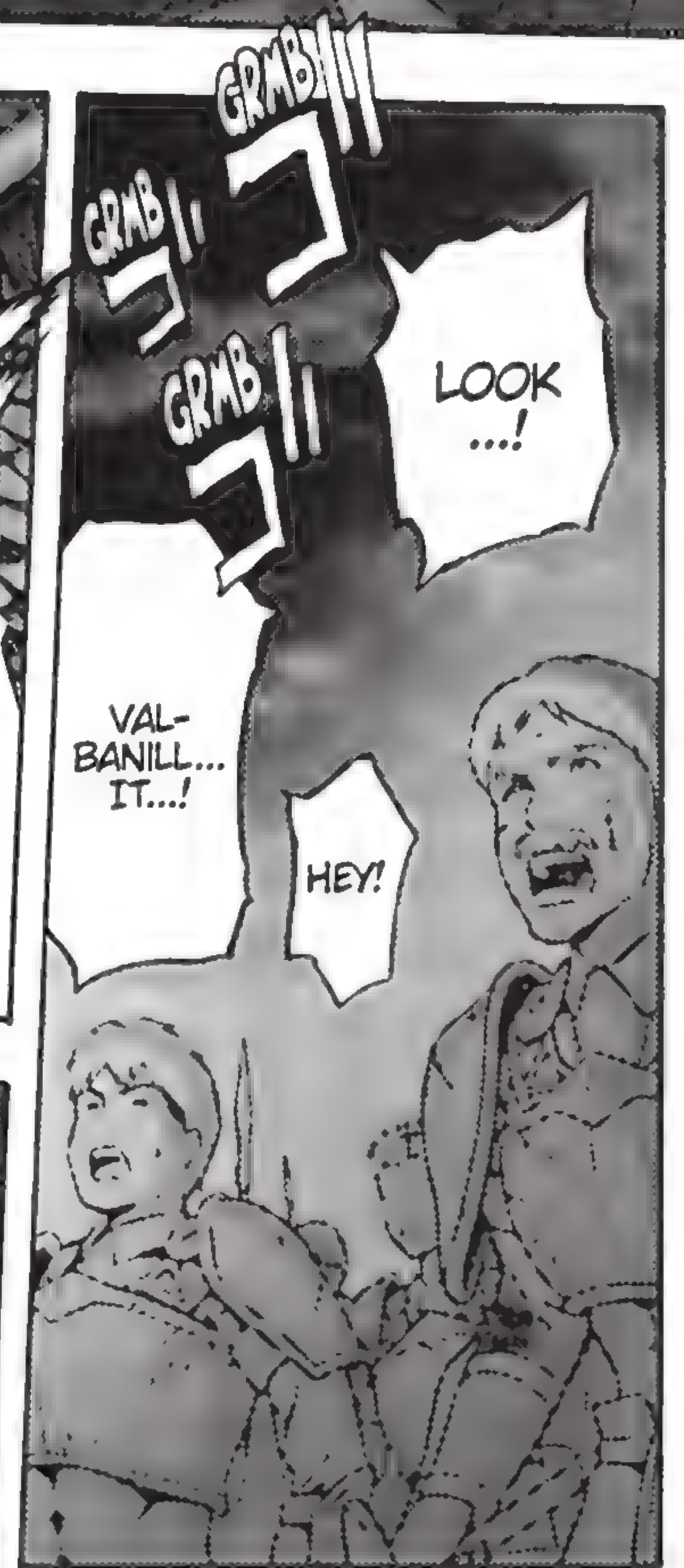
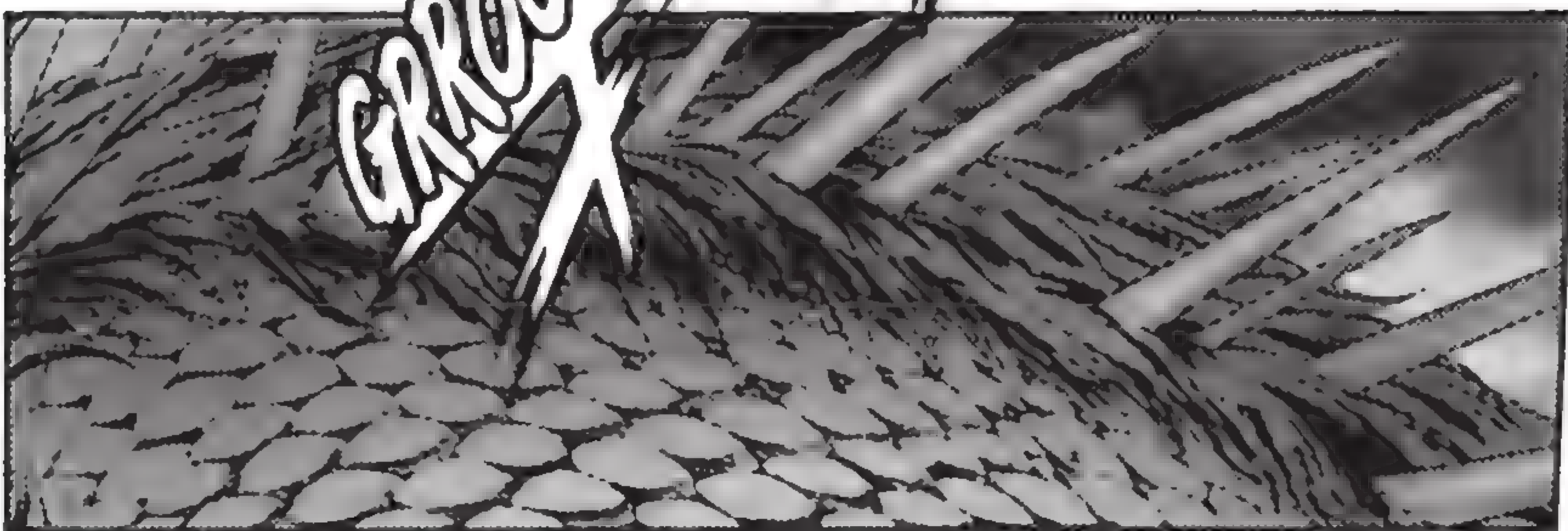


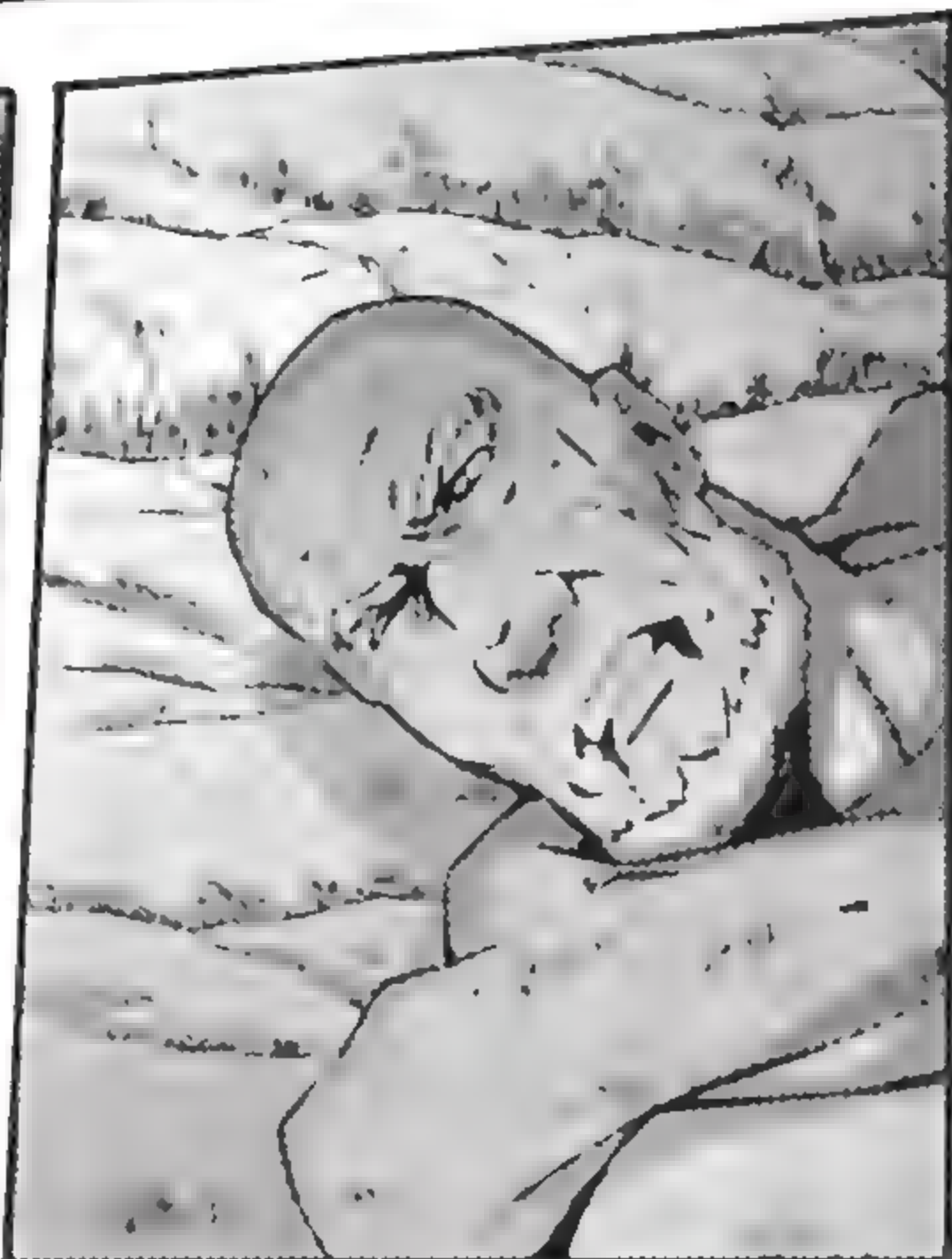
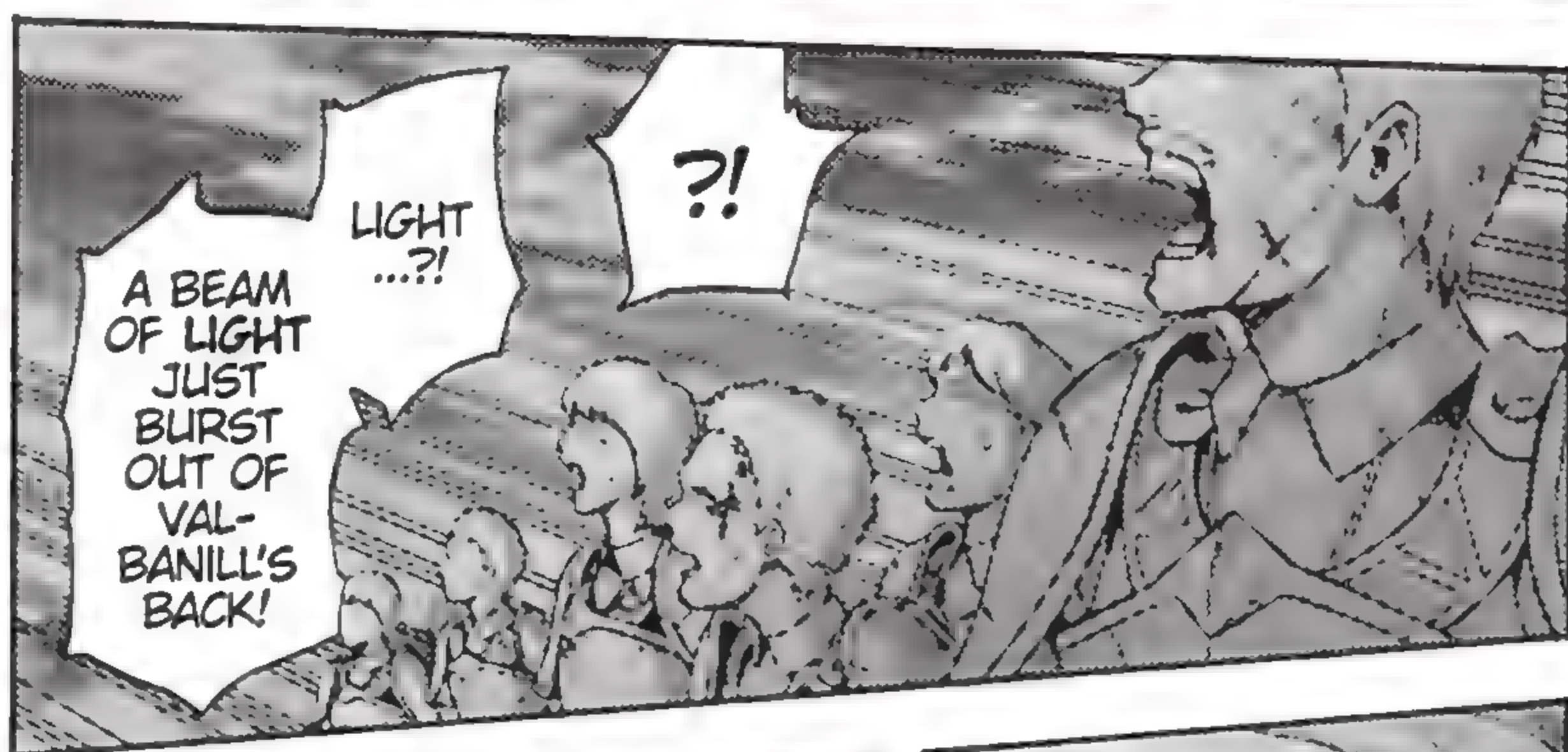
GRAH
...?!

W
R
S
H









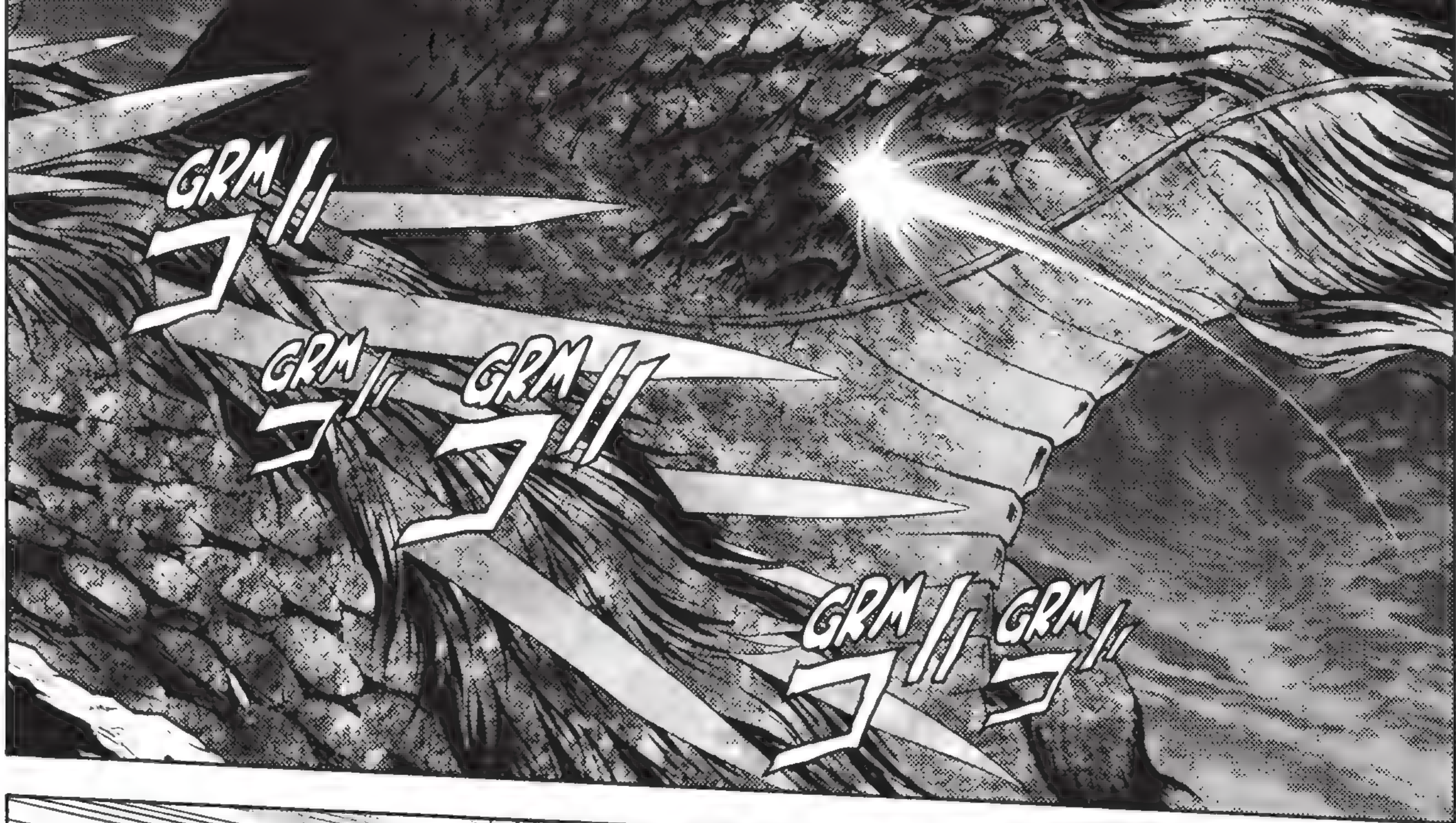


The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

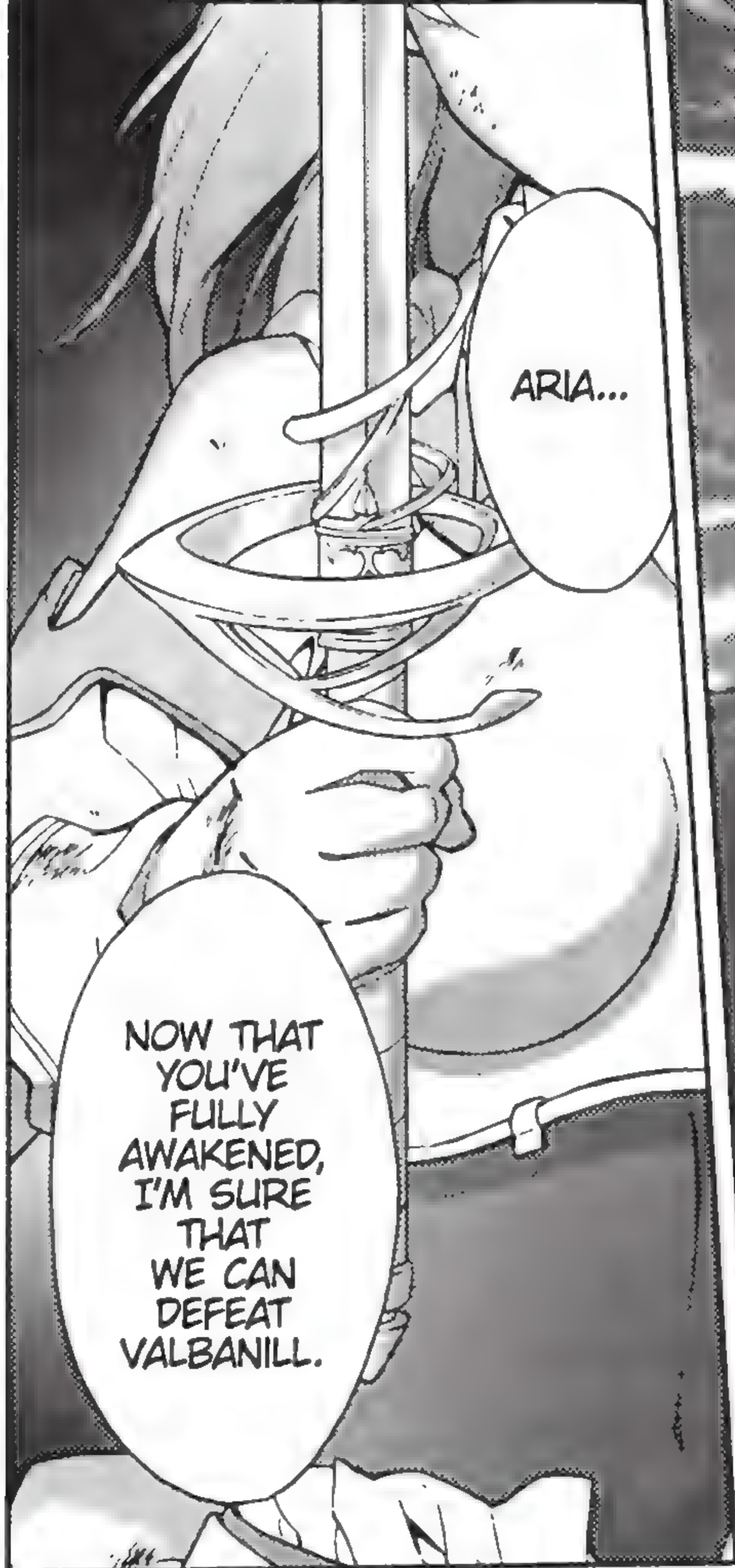




The Sacred Knight

Final Chapter





ARIA...

NOW THAT
YOU'VE
FULLY
AWAKENED,
I'M SURE
THAT
WE CAN
DEFEAT
VALBANILL.

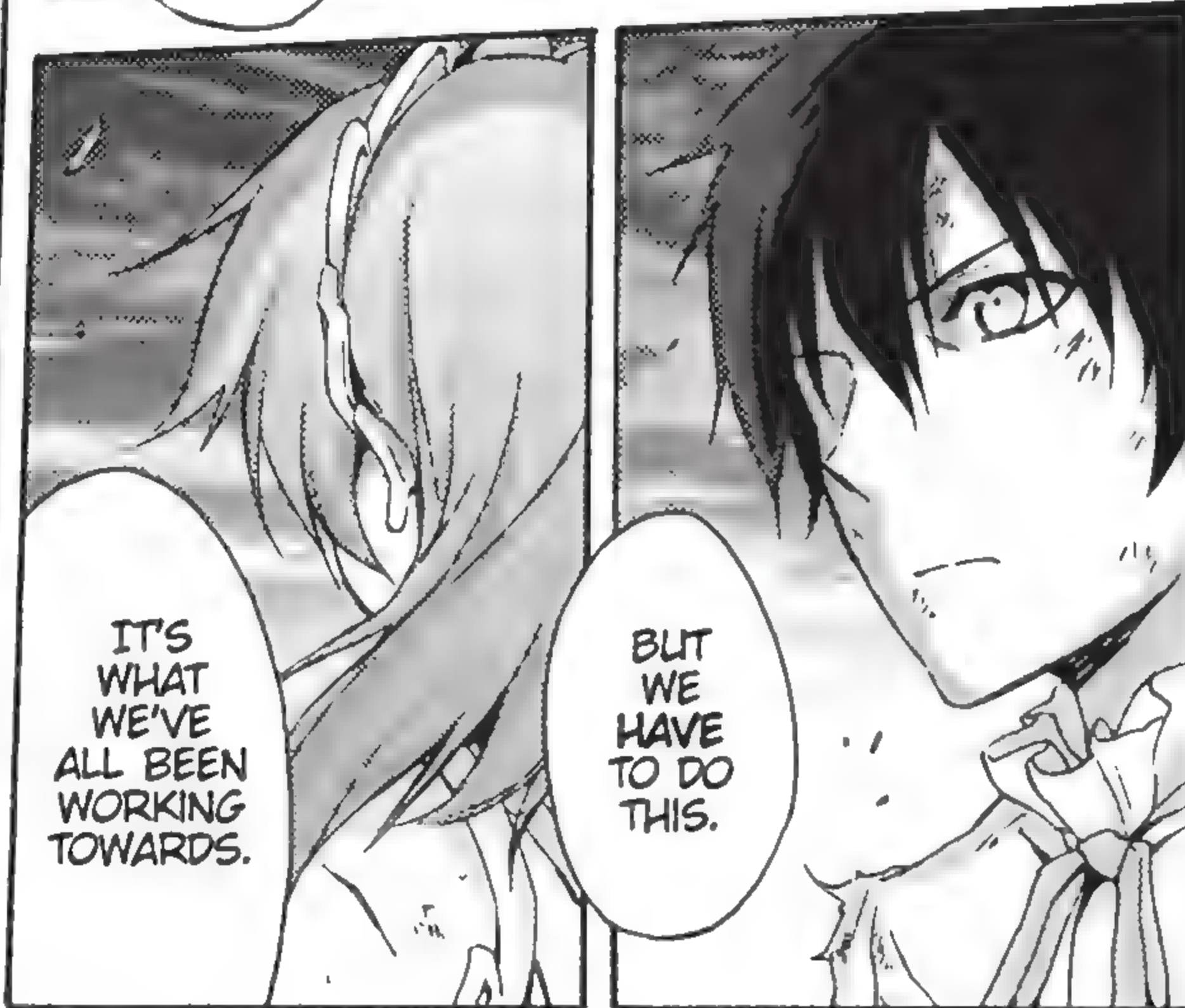


I THINK...
OUR NEXT
STRIKE
WILL BE
THE END
OF THIS
BATTLE.



I'D BE
LYING IF I
SAID THAT
DIDN'T
MAKE ME
HESITATE.

BUT ONCE
WE DO,
THE TWO
OF US
WILL HAVE
TO SAY
GOODBYE...



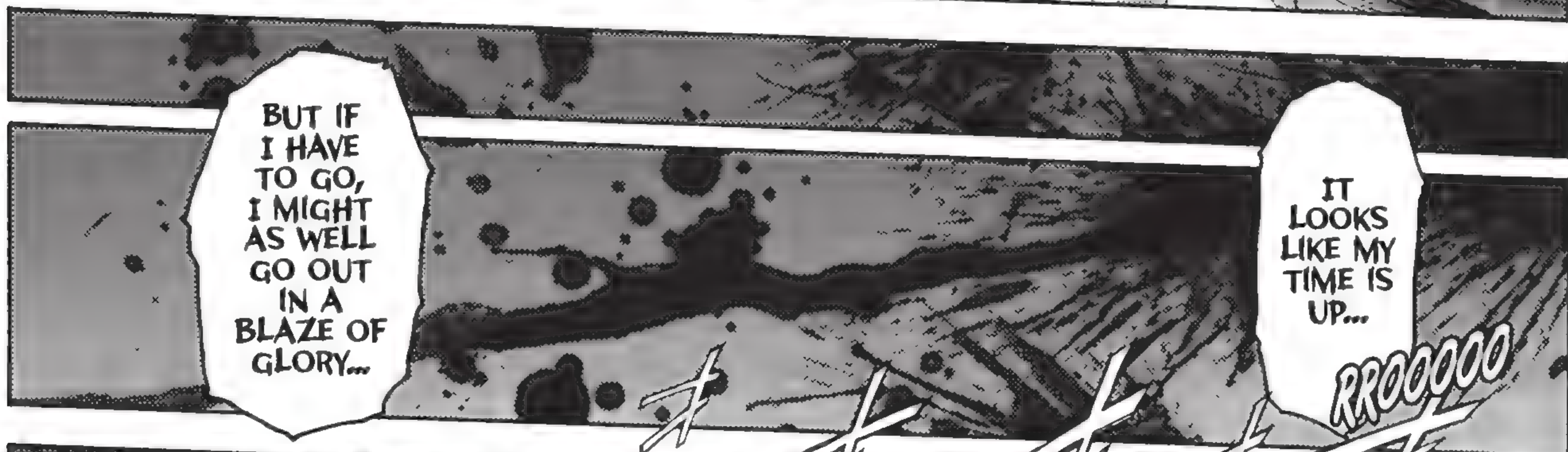
IT'S
WHAT
WE'VE
ALL BEEN
WORKING
TOWARDS.

BUT
WE
HAVE
TO DO
THIS.



LET'S
DO
THIS,
ARIA!!

IT'S
TIME
WE
SAVED
EVERY-
ONE!!



BUT IF
I HAVE
TO GO,
I MIGHT
AS WELL
GO OUT
IN A
BLAZE OF
GLORY...

IT
LOOKS
LIKE MY
TIME IS
UP...

RRROOOOOO

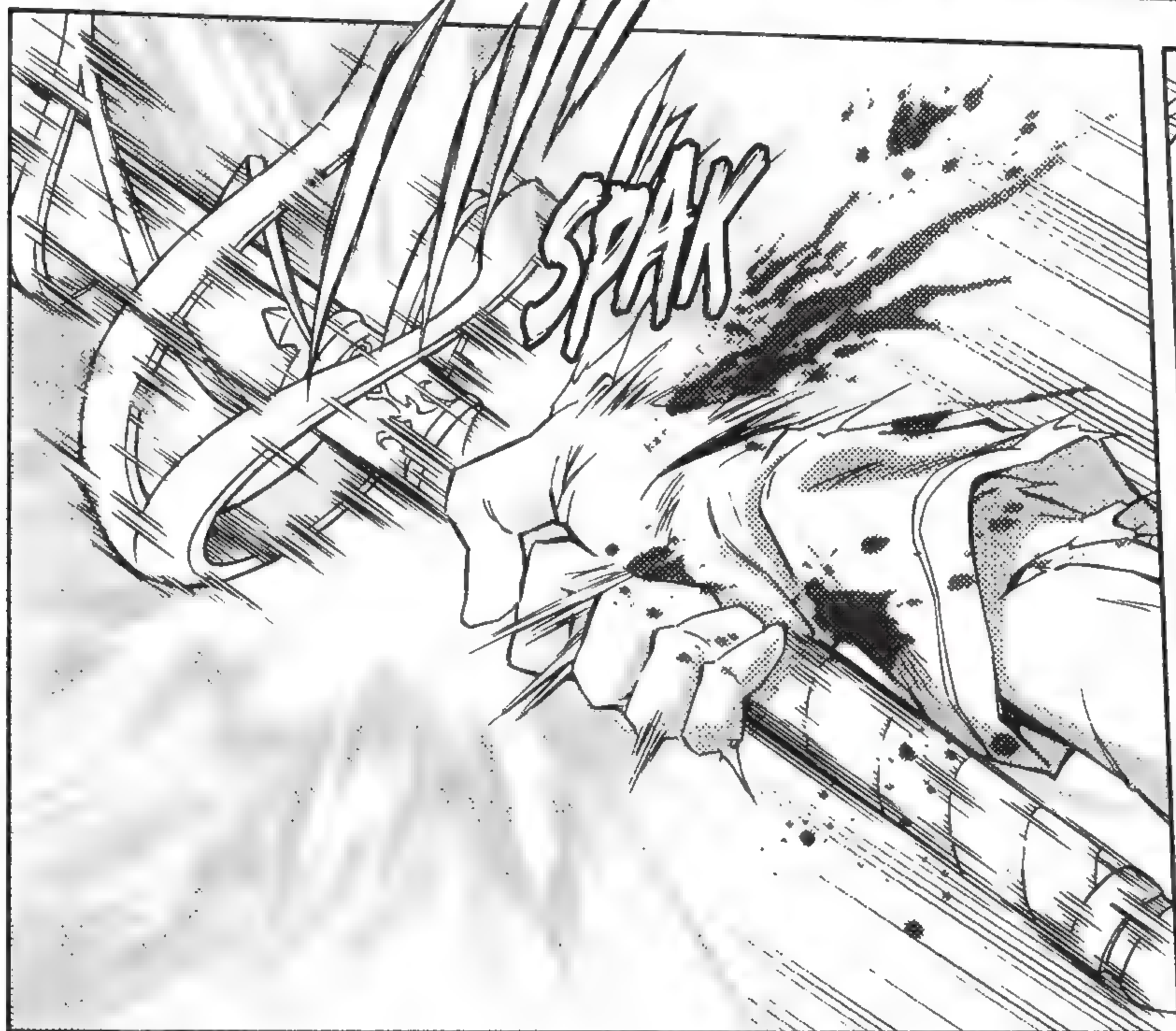
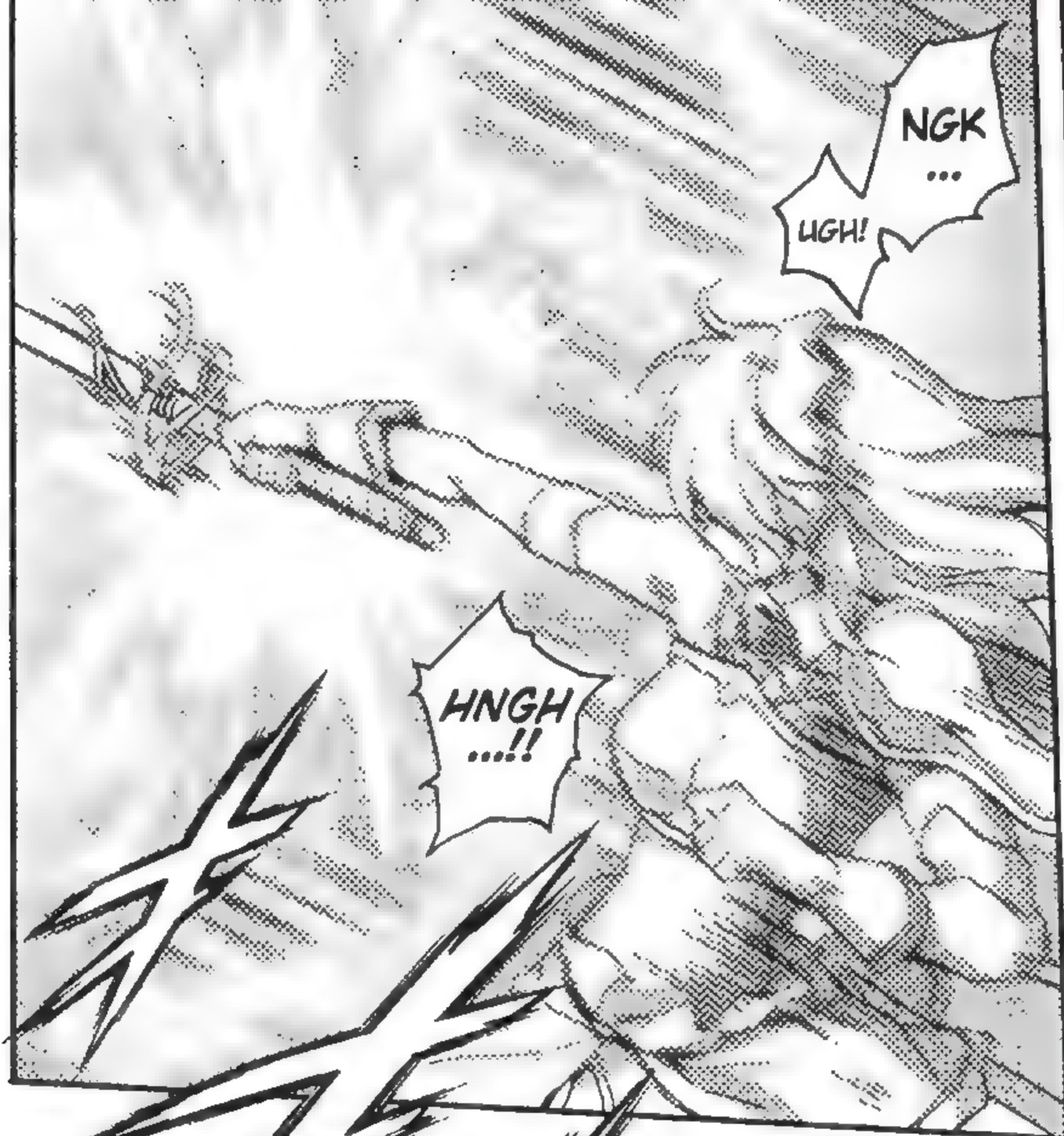


YOU
TWO.

YOU
DID...
WELL.









BUT
HOW CAN
I HELP
HER?!

IS THERE
ANYTHING
I CAN
DO...?!

SHIROOO

DAMN...!
IT'S
PUSHING
HER
BACK!!



CECILY
!!

MISS
CECILY
!!



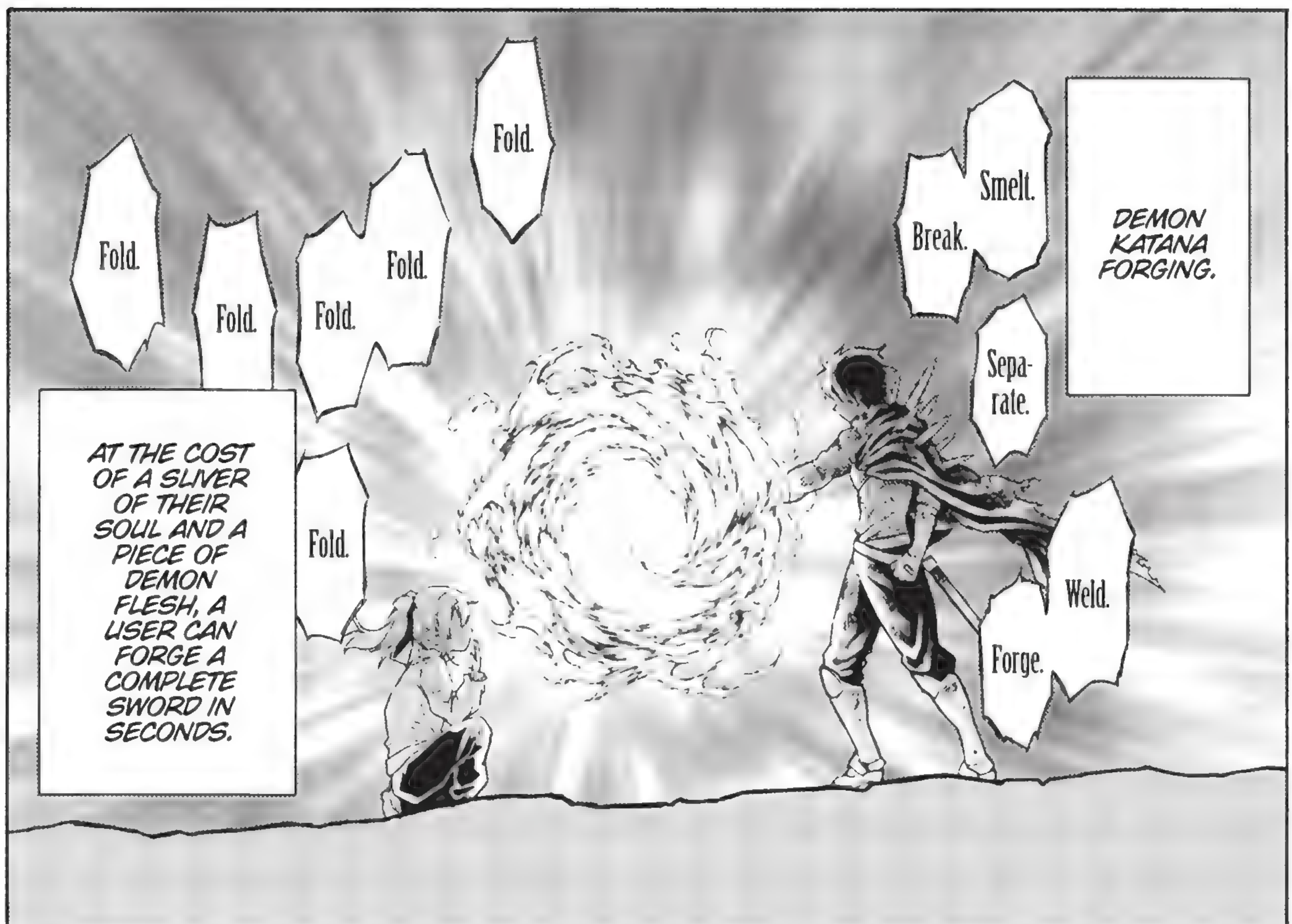
FORGE
A
DEMON
KATANA!!

LUKE,
YOU
CAN
USE MY
POWER!



YOU
CAN
MAKE...
THAT!!

!!







I'M
GOING TO
DISAPPEAR
NOW...

Tip
polish.



Hadori
finish.

GOODBYE,
LUKE...

GOODBYE,
MISS
CECILY...

Mirror
polish.

I LEAVE
EVERYTHING
IN YOUR
HANDS....!!



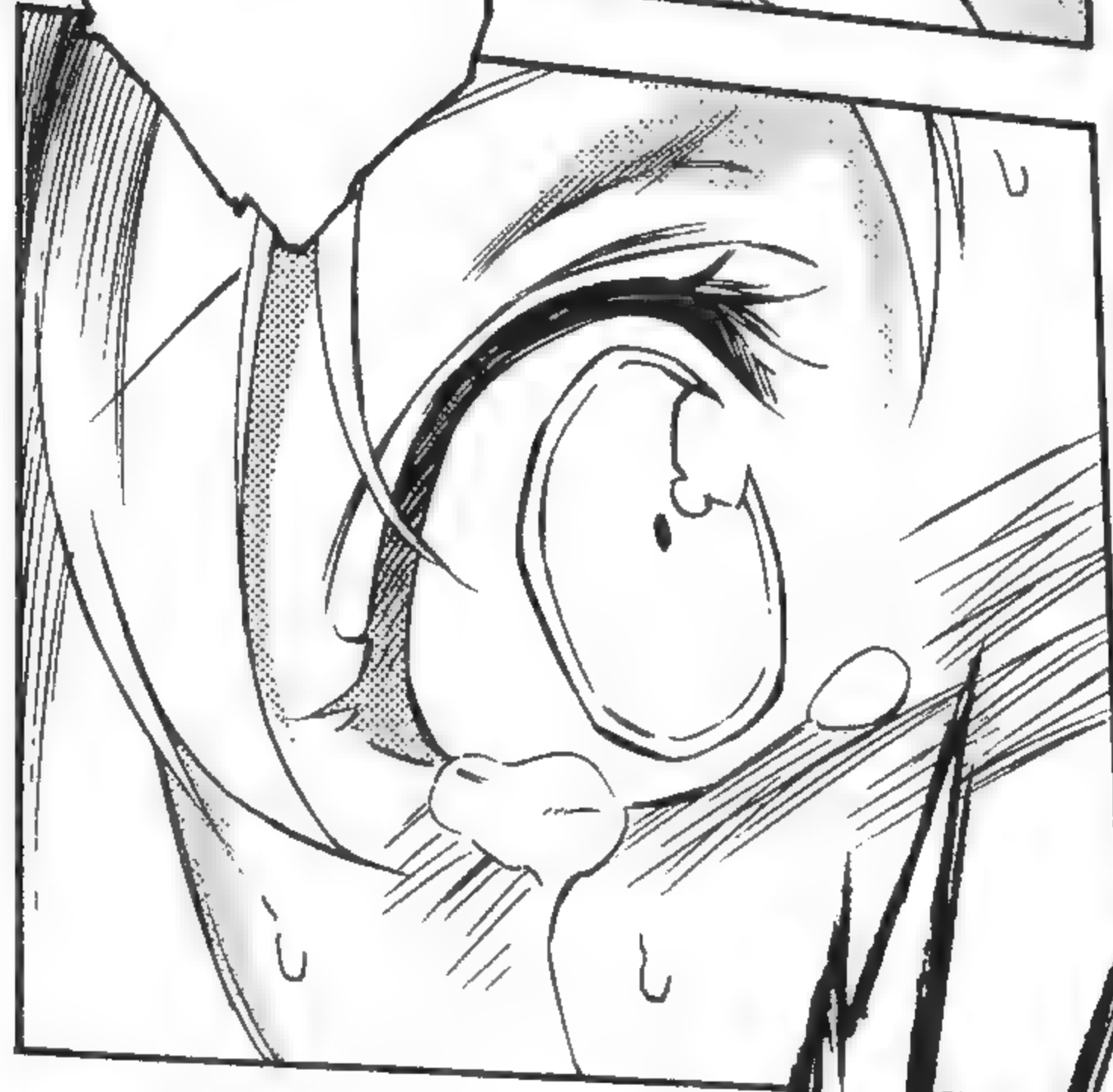
HUH
...?



WELL,
IT'S NOT
LIKE MY
LEFT
ARM WILL
BE OF
ANY USE
ANYMORE.



ALONG
WITH A
CHUNK
OF MY
SOUL,
OF
COURSE.



INSTEAD
OF USING
ANY MORE
OF YOUR
FLESH...

THEY
CAN JUST
TAKE
THAT
INSTEAD...



**MOUNT
HILT!!**



LUKE,
YOU
IDIOT!!

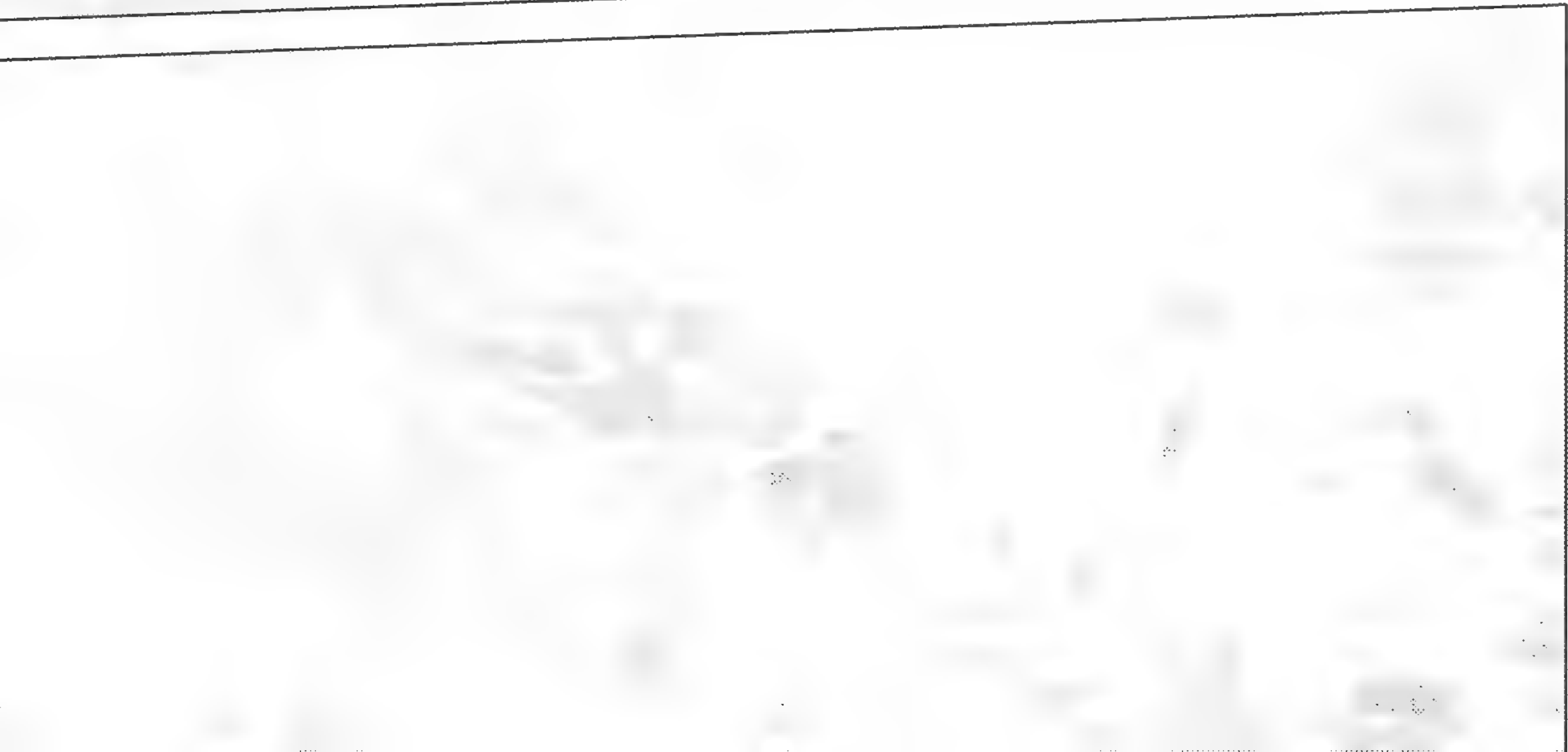
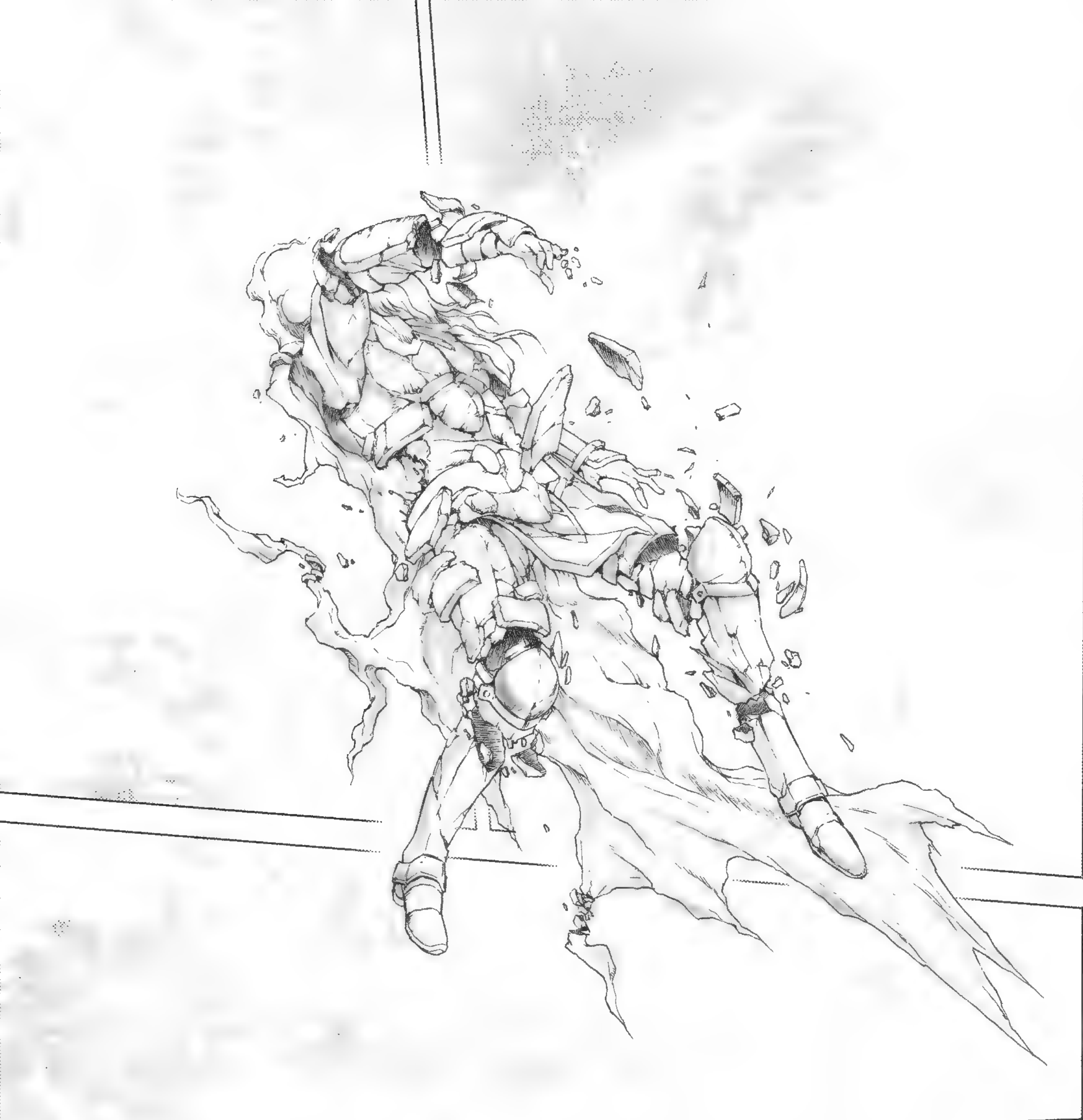






BOOM





WITH NO ONE
CONTROLLING IT,
IT FELL INTO A
COMA-LIKE STATE.
GRABBING THE
OPPORTUNITY,
CECILY CLIMBED
ATOP ITS HEAD
AND DROVE THE
SACRED BLADE
HOME.

SHORTLY
THERE-
AFTER,
THE GREAT
DRAGON
STILLED.

I'LL
FIGURE OUT
SOMETHING.
DON'T
WORRY.

CONFIRMED.
HOWEVER,
I NOTICE YOUR
LEFT ARM
IS MISSING.
FORGING A
NEW BLADE
NOW WOULD
SEEM
DIFFICULT
FOR YOU.

WAIT RIGHT
THERE.
WE WILL
FORGE A
NEW SACRED
BLADE TO
TAKE YOUR
PLACE.
I SWEAR IT.



WE WILL
SEE EACH
OTHER AGAIN,
ARIA.
I PROMISE.

CONFIRMED.
WE
SHALL





CECILY
CRIED.

AND
THEN...

THE SEAL
WAS
COMPLETE.

WITHIN
MINUTES,
THE ENTIRE
CREATURE
WAS AS
SOLID AS
A BLOCK
OF IRON.

LIKE POISON
SEEPING
THROUGH WATER,
VALBANILL'S
BODY FROZE
IN A WAVE,
SPREADING
OUT FROM
WHERE THE
SACRED BLADE
IMPALED IT.

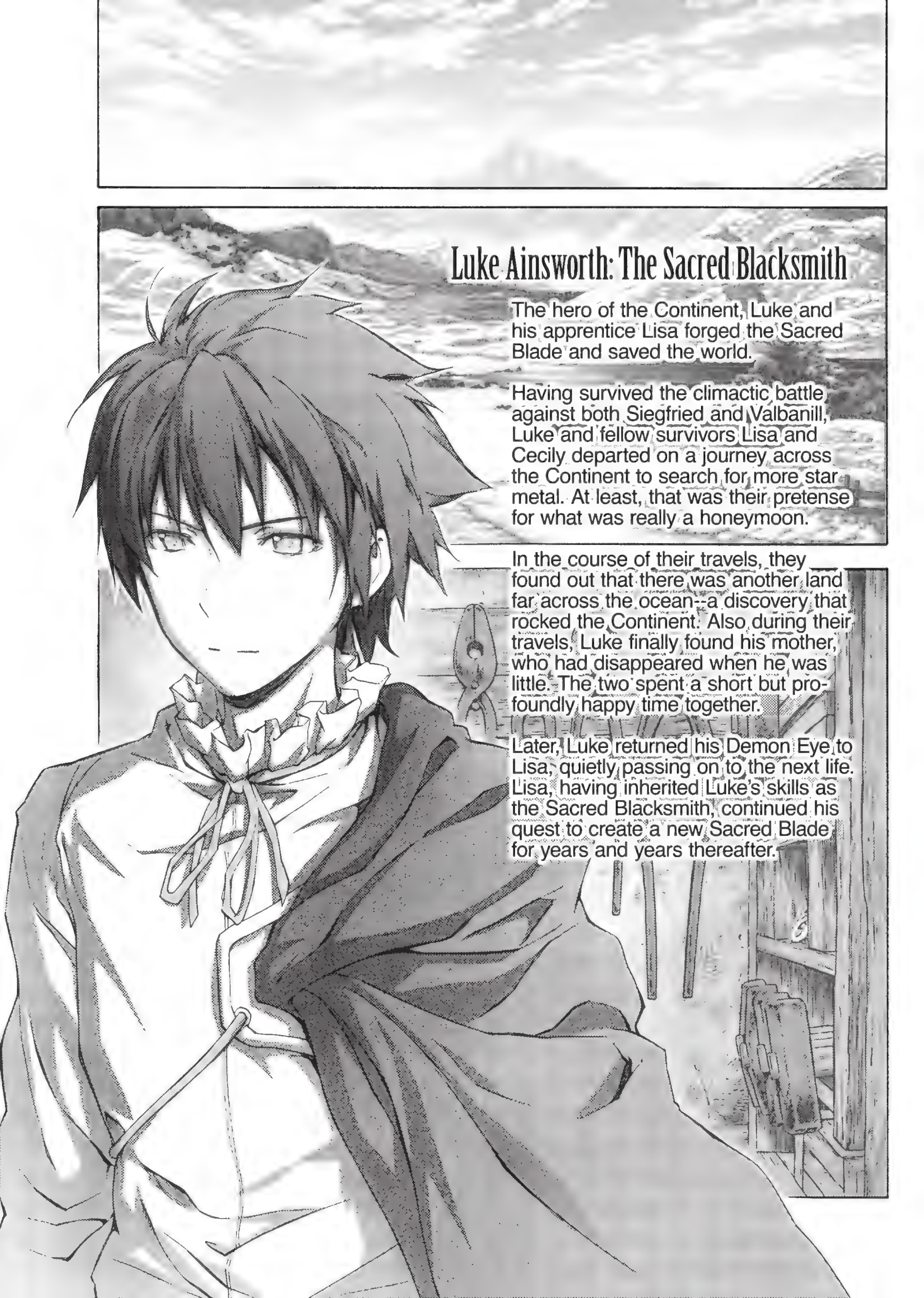


CROUCHED
BESIDE
THE FORM
OF HER
PARTNER.

SHE WEPT
AND WEPT
FOR HOURS
ON END...



The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶



Luke Ainsworth: The Sacred Blacksmith

The hero of the Continent, Luke and his apprentice Lisa forged the Sacred Blade and saved the world.

Having survived the climactic battle against both Siegfried and Valbanill, Luke and fellow survivors Lisa and Cecily departed on a journey across the Continent to search for more star metal. At least, that was their pretense for what was really a honeymoon.

In the course of their travels, they found out that there was another land far across the ocean--a discovery that rocked the Continent. Also during their travels, Luke finally found his mother, who had disappeared when he was little. The two spent a short but profoundly happy time together.

Later, Luke returned his Demon Eye to Lisa, quietly passing on to the next life. Lisa, having inherited Luke's skills as the Sacred Blacksmith, continued his quest to create a new Sacred Blade for years and years thereafter.

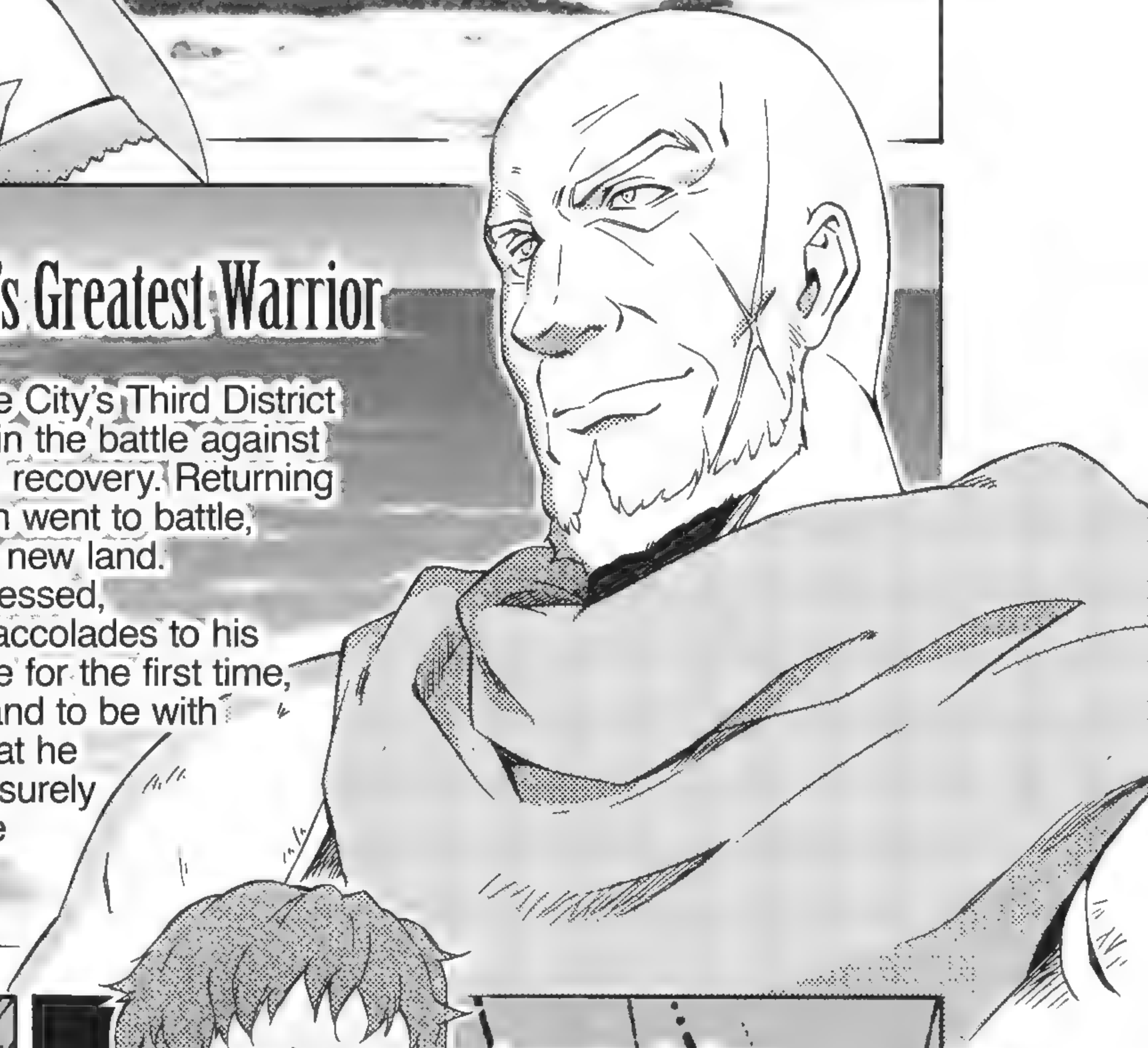


Zenobia Q. Lanchester: The Little Queen

The ruler of the Militant Nation. After the great battle with Valbanill, Zenobia disguised herself as her lady-in-waiting Charlotte and secretly accompanied Luke and the others on their journey for star metal. Hearing that there were pirates running rampant in the new land, she returned to her nation, swearing to vanquish them. Well into her twilight years, Zenobia stood as the representative of the Continent to the new land, making every effort to build ties of peace and understanding between them. Even as she aged, Zenobia remained small and cute, being her people's beloved "Little Queen" for her entire reign.

Hannibal Quasar: The Continent's Greatest Warrior

Former Captain of the Independent Trade City's Third District Knight Corps. Though gravely wounded in the battle against Valbanill, Hannibal eventually made a full recovery. Returning to the Knight Corps, Hannibal once again went to battle, this time against the pirates ravaging the new land. After the pirates were successfully suppressed, Hannibal finally retired, with many more accolades to his name. Declaring that he had fallen in love for the first time, Hannibal left the Continent for the new land to be with the woman who had stolen his heart. That he never returned was a sign that Hannibal surely must have settled down and lived out the rest of his life in happiness.



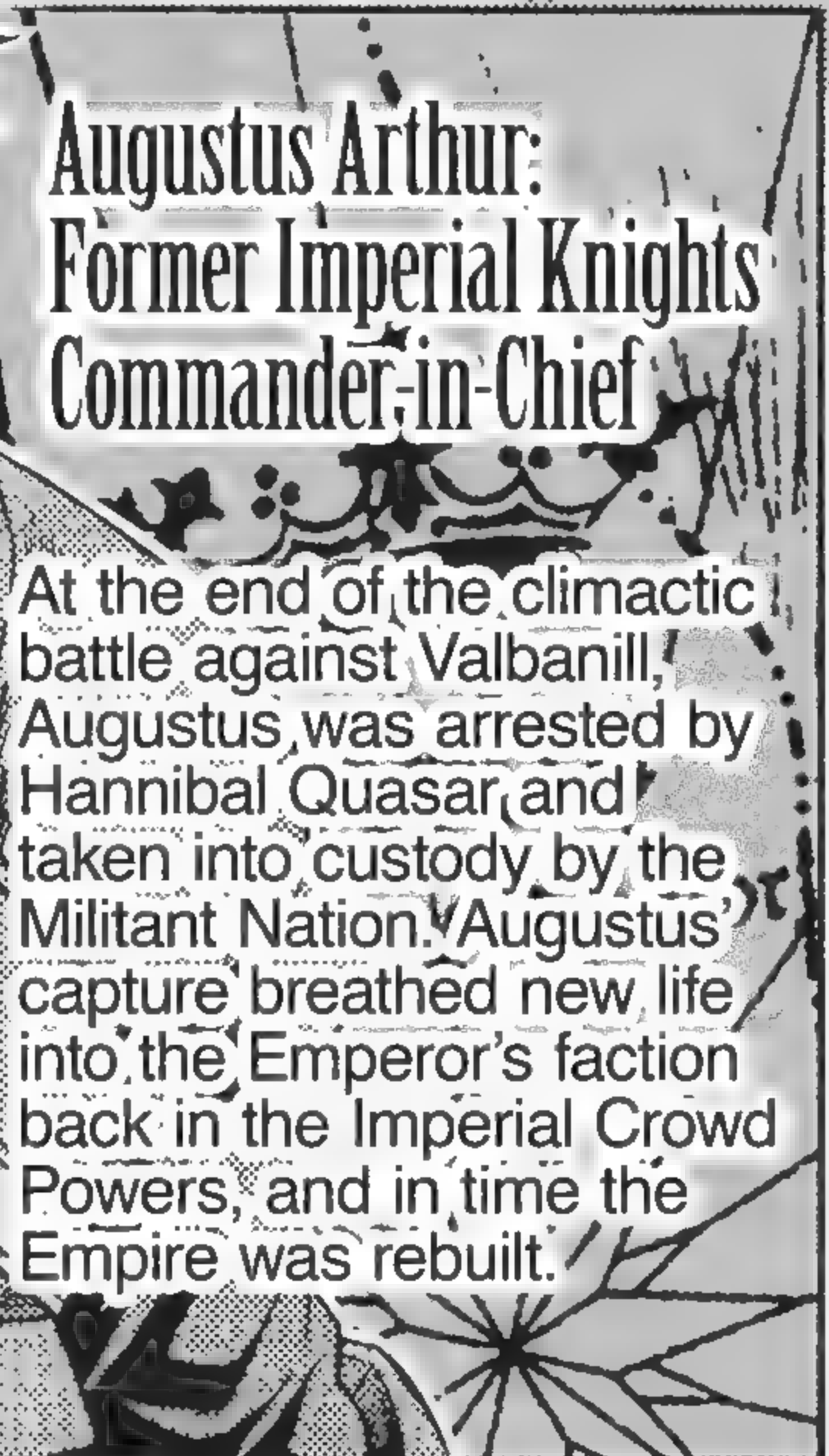
Lancelot Douglas: Former Crowd Powers Representative

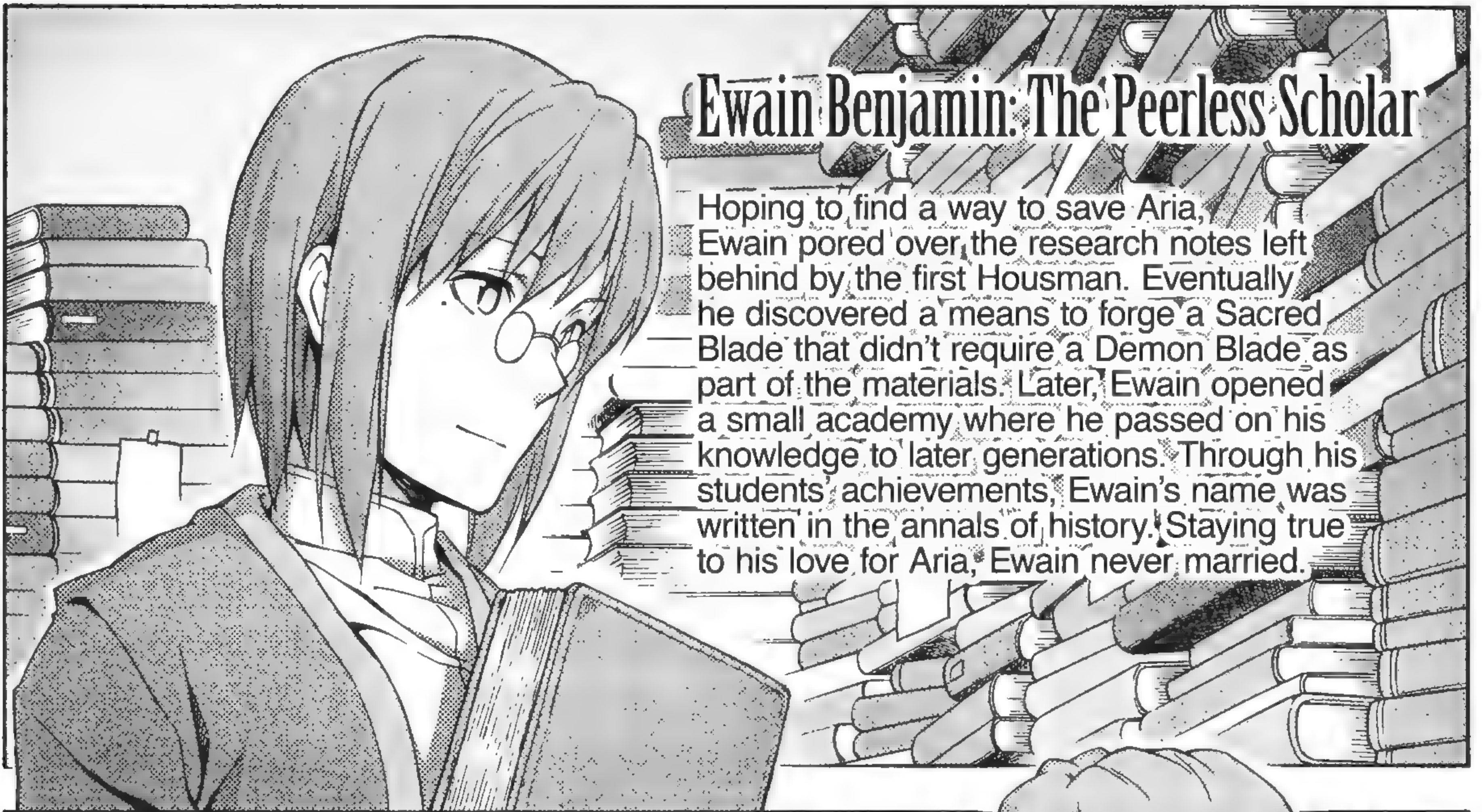
This noted ally of Siegfried Housman did not survive the great battle with Valbanill, losing his life in the conflict. Lancelot had built his life around slavery, using that system to control the small nations of the Crowd Powers, maintaining his position by supplying them to whoever paid enough. After Lancelot's death, the Crowd Powers fell into bickering over how many war crimes could be laid at his feet.



Augustus Arthur: Former Imperial Knights Commander-in-Chief

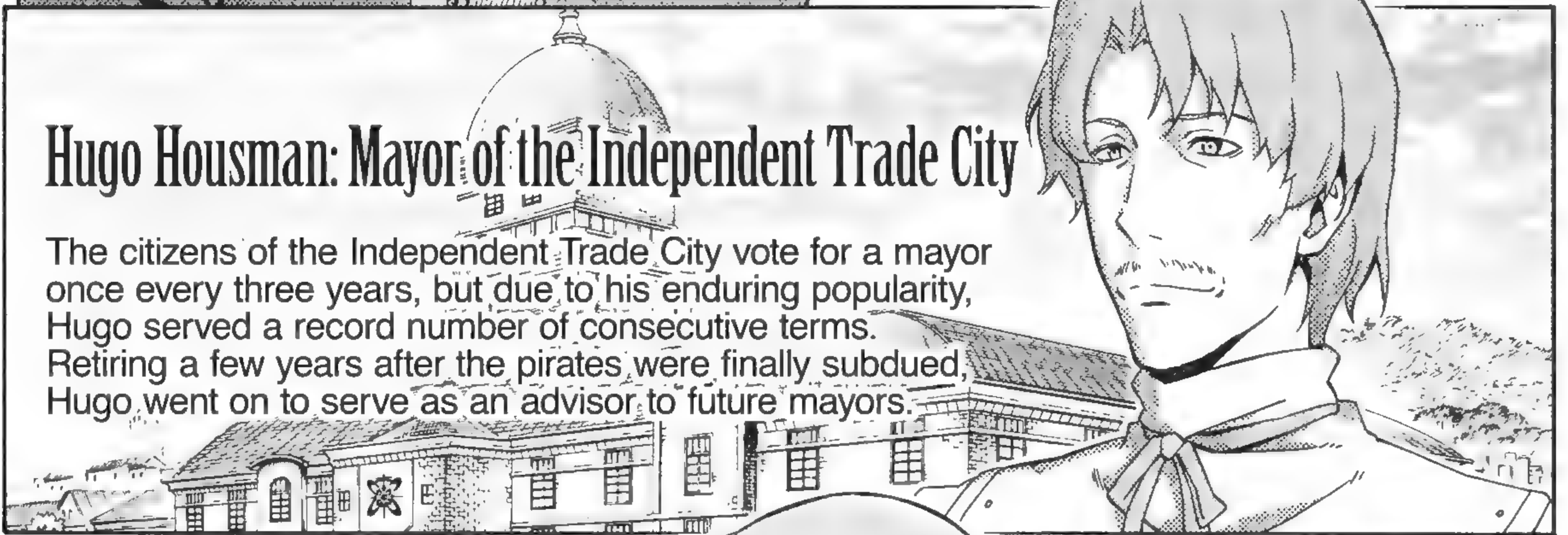
At the end of the climactic battle against Valbanill, Augustus was arrested by Hannibal Quasar and taken into custody by the Militant Nation. Augustus' capture breathed new life into the Emperor's faction back in the Imperial Crowd Powers, and in time the Empire was rebuilt.





Ewain Benjamin: The Peerless Scholar

Hoping to find a way to save Aria, Ewain pored over the research notes left behind by the first Housman. Eventually he discovered a means to forge a Sacred Blade that didn't require a Demon Blade as part of the materials. Later, Ewain opened a small academy where he passed on his knowledge to later generations. Through his students' achievements, Ewain's name was written in the annals of history. Staying true to his love for Aria, Ewain never married.



Hugo Housman: Mayor of the Independent Trade City

The citizens of the Independent Trade City vote for a mayor once every three years, but due to his enduring popularity, Hugo served a record number of consecutive terms. Retiring a few years after the pirates were finally subdued, Hugo went on to serve as an advisor to future mayors.

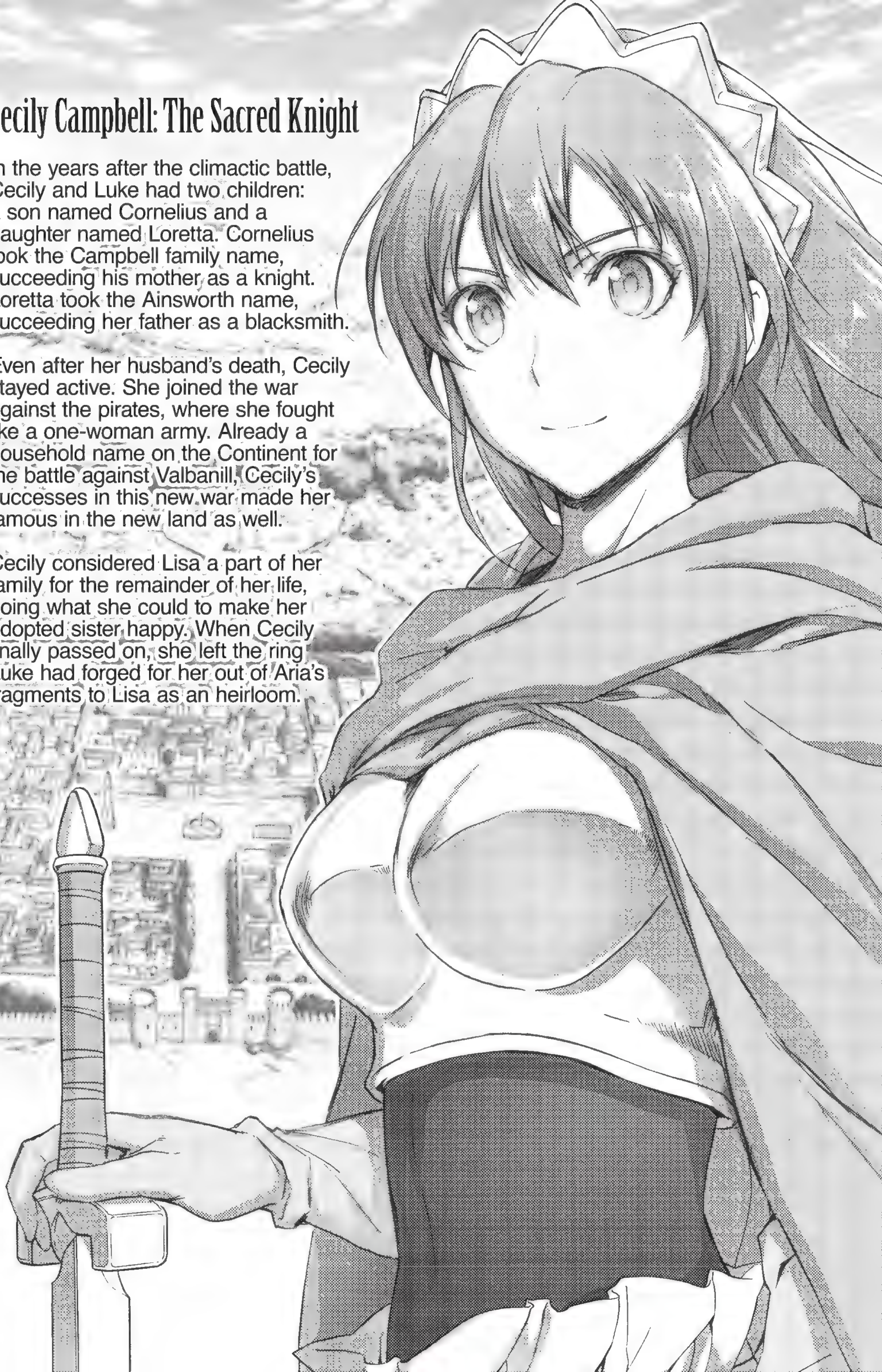


Cecily Campbell: The Sacred Knight

In the years after the climactic battle, Cecily and Luke had two children: a son named Cornelius and a daughter named Loretta. Cornelius took the Campbell family name, succeeding his mother as a knight. Loretta took the Ainsworth name, succeeding her father as a blacksmith.

Even after her husband's death, Cecily stayed active. She joined the war against the pirates, where she fought like a one-woman army. Already a household name on the Continent for the battle against Valbanill, Cecily's successes in this new war made her famous in the new land as well.

Cecily considered Lisa a part of her family for the remainder of her life, doing what she could to make her adopted sister happy. When Cecily finally passed on, she left the ring Luke had forged for her out of Aria's fragments to Lisa as an heirloom.

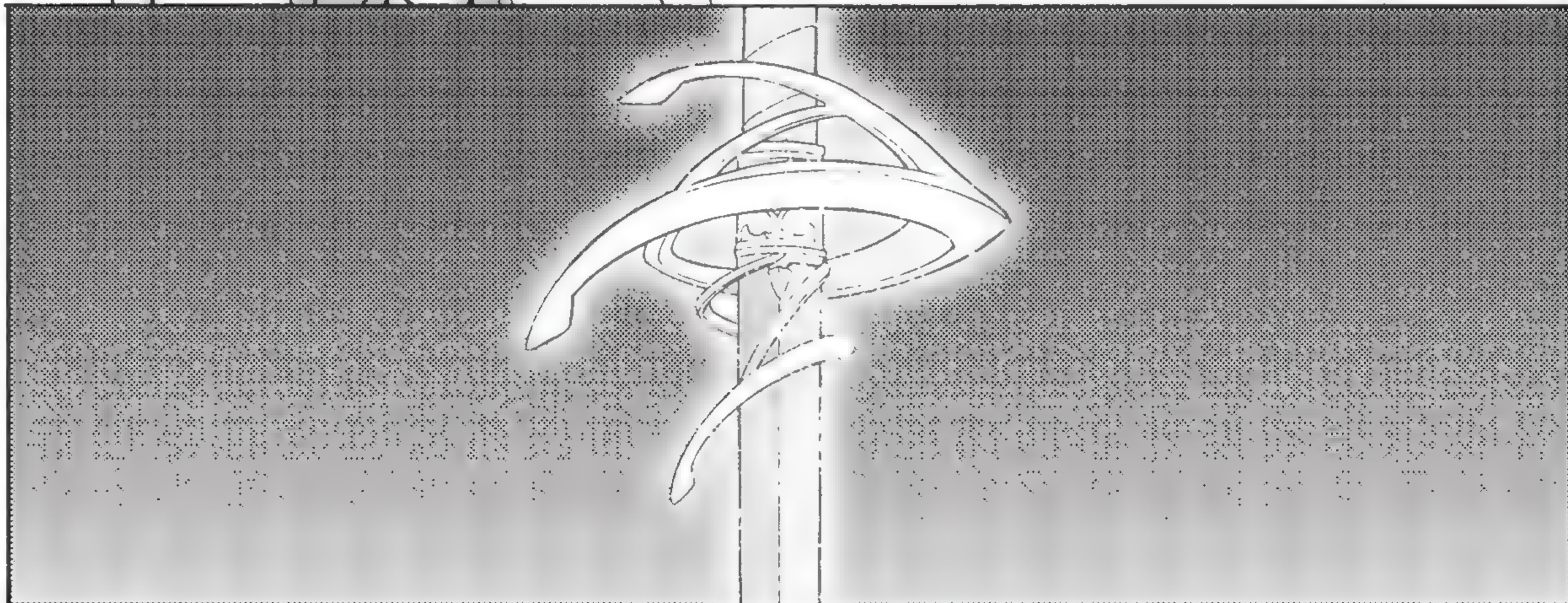




Lisa: The Sacred Blacksmith's Assistant

Lisa dedicated herself to forging a new Sacred Blade, shouldering the wishes of her late master Luke, Cecily, and all the people of the world. She was the one who trained Luke's daughter Loretta in the art of blacksmithing.

When Ewain finally discovered the means to create a Sacred Blade without using a Demon Blade, he promptly told Lisa. It involved forging jewel steel together with star metal for a long time--far longer than any normal human would live. Lisa didn't hesitate to start the process...

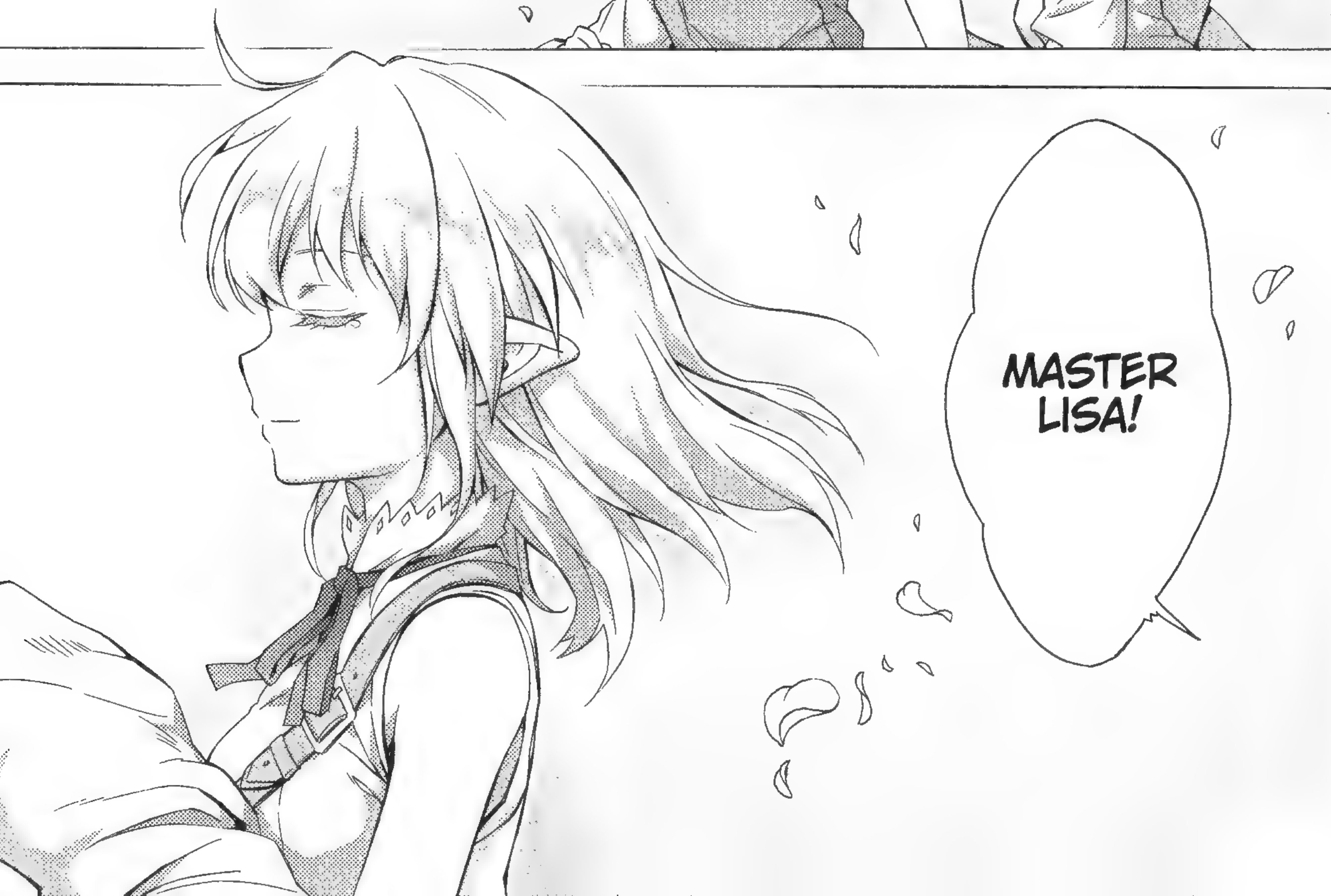


And so...

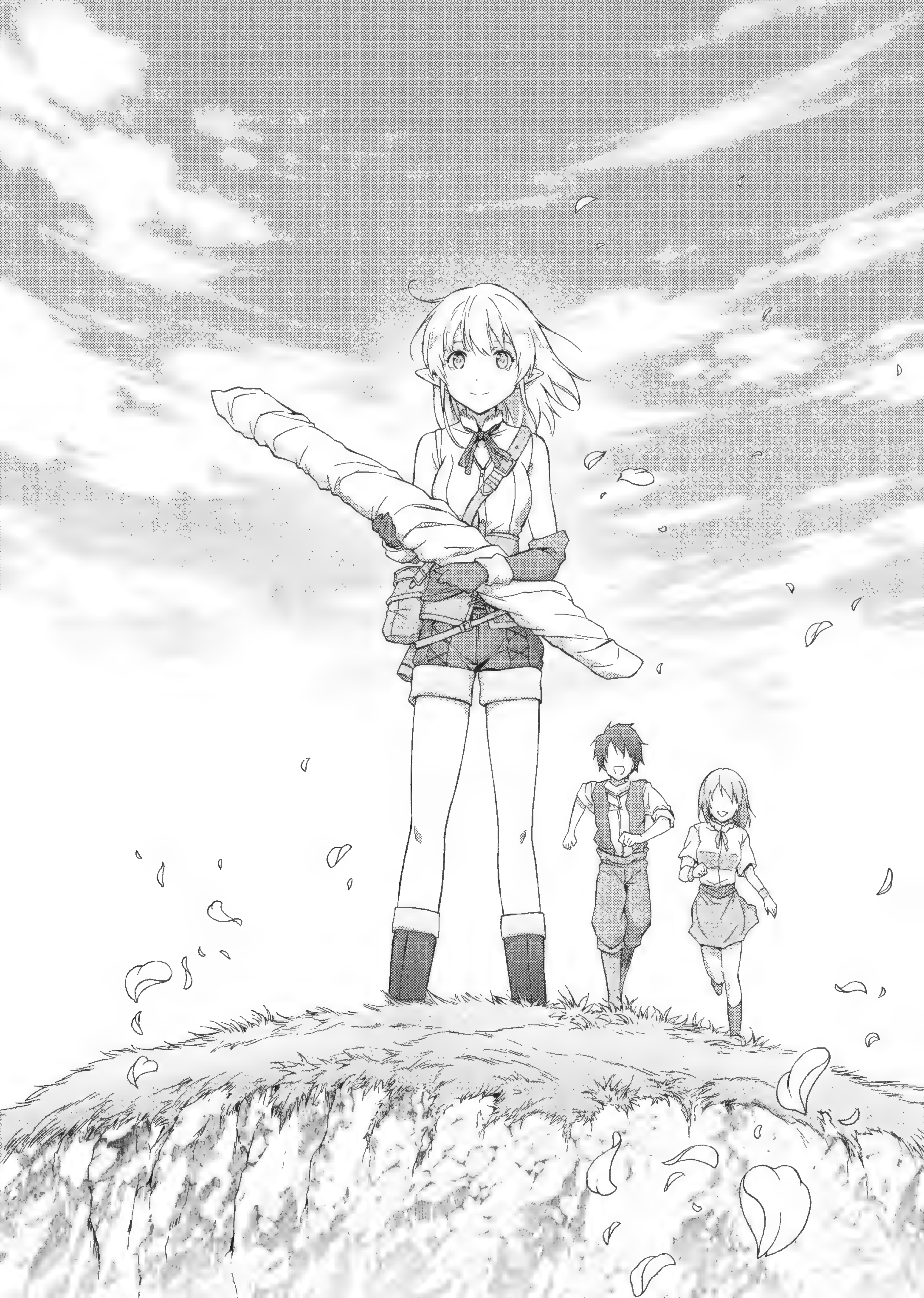
Three hundred years passed.

After decades of long and grueling work, Lisa finally puts the finishing polish on the new Sacred Blade.

Sliding it home in a sheath signed with the name "Lisa," she now makes her way to where Aria waits...



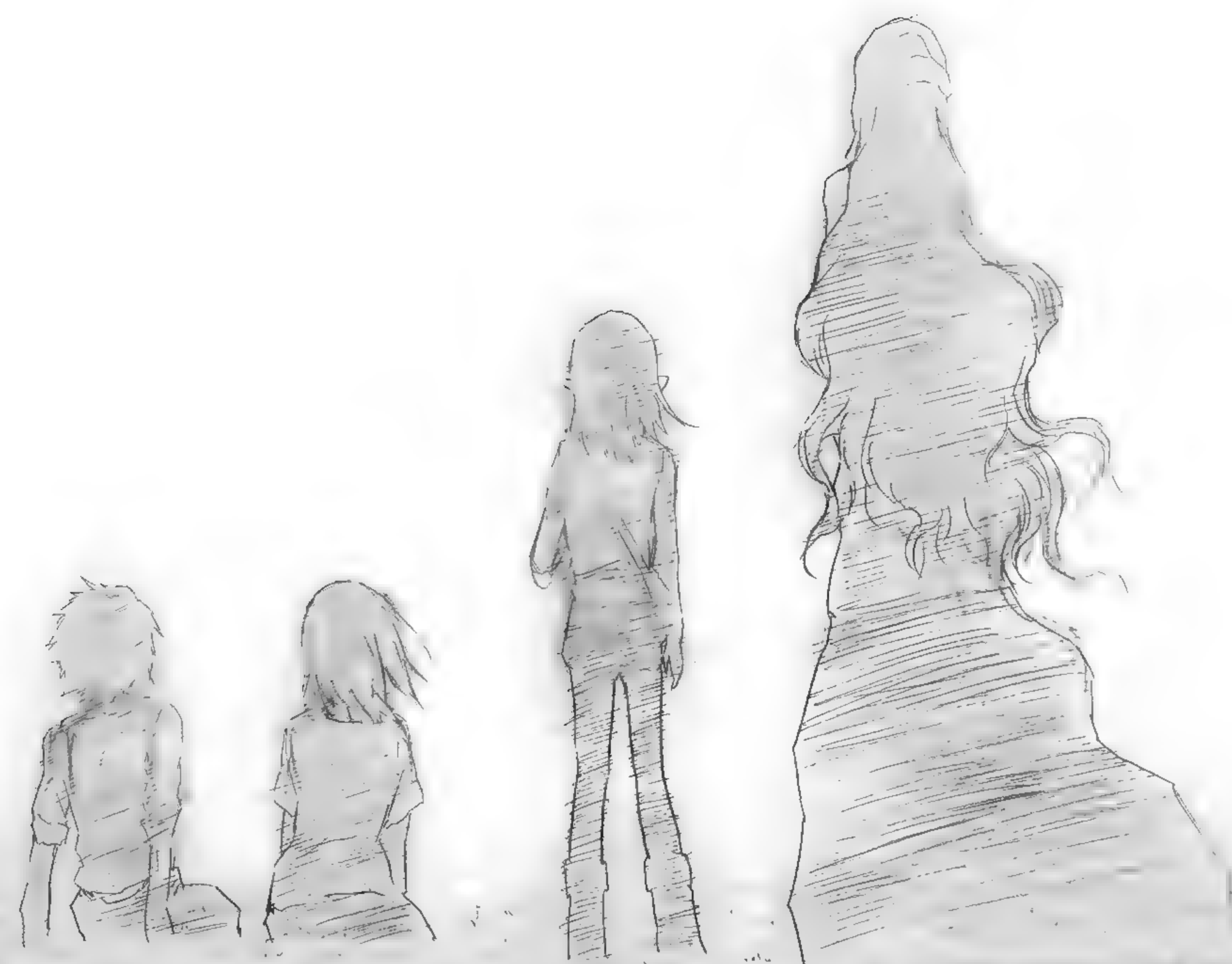
**MASTER
LISA!**



THANK YOU.
THOSE ARE
THE ONLY
WORDS I
CAN SAY...
THANK YOU.

THAT IS
MORE
THAN
ENOUGH.

Fin



— A Word from the Artist —

I'm sorry to have made you wait so long, but here is the final volume. With this, the manga version of *The Sacred Blacksmith* is now complete.

Looking back, when I first began working on this title, it was an unsettled time in my life. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with myself. Discovering this work and getting to serialize it opened my eyes to so many things.

This was such an honest and sincere work. Its fantasy world was one I adored so much it made me want to draw it. But even more than the world, I loved the characters. It felt like, more than once, Cecily's spontaneity influenced me, giving me the push I needed in real life. Luke and Lisa and Aria all resonated with me, too, teaching me that yes, it's okay to feel that way. I think I will carry all of these characters in my heart for the rest of my life.

For so long, I have walked down the road of life side by side with this work.

Now, after seeing everything that I wanted to see, we've reached the end. I can look back on our journey with pride, and say goodbye to it with happiness.

Miura-sensei, thank you for creating *The Sacred Blacksmith*.

Luna-sensei, thank you for bringing it to life.

To all my assistants, my editors, and most of all, to all you readers out there, you have my deepest gratitude. Thank you very much!



Kotaro Yamada



— A Word from the Creators —



Original Creator — Isao Miura

Hello. I'm Isao Miura, the original author for *The Sacred Blacksmith*.

First, let me say thank you to Kotaro Yamada-sensei for taking time out of his busy schedule to draw the manga version of this story. *The Sacred Blacksmith* manga version began serialization in the January 2009 issue of the *Comic Alive* magazine. That means it was ongoing for a full eight years--that's longer than it took me to write the entire novel series! (shocked)

That one scene in Volume 3, you know the one, was really impactful. I was pretty depressed at the time, so much so it even made the news, but then I suddenly noticed I was getting way more hits on my blog. "I'm stubborn!!" she yelled. Her expression was perfect. The two-page spread during her confession was beautiful, too. I couldn't help but grin! Seeing the scene where the old Sacred Blade takes Lisa's eye in the manga made me glad I added it into the novels.

And wow, Valbanill sure was scary!

I can say with absolute certainty that I was very glad to have this story adapted as it was. Yamada-sensei, thank you so much for all your hard work!



Character Designer — Luna

Yamada-sensei's work on this manga has been a great inspiration for me in my current work.

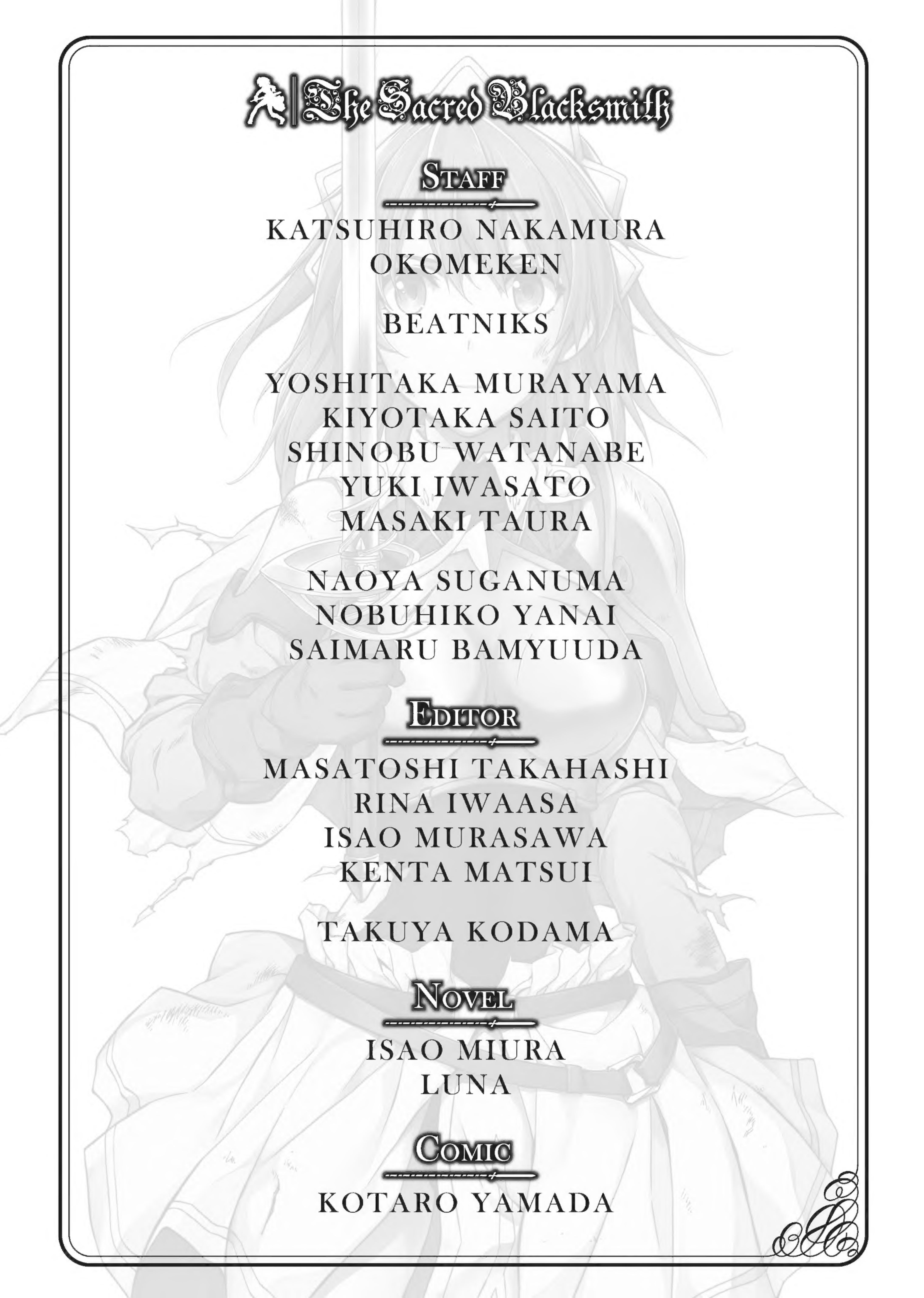
While the manga and the original novels were being published alongside of each other, I tried to live up to Yamada-sensei's work, but that one pinup of the grand maid march is still a goal of mine.

Please take good care of yourself, and keep up the good work. I'll be cheering you on from the shadows!



CONGRATS ON
COMPLETING THE MANGA!





A | The Sacred Blacksmith

STAFF

KATSUHIRO NAKAMURA
OKOMEKEN

BEATNIKS

YOSHITAKA MURAYAMA
KIYOTAKA SAITO
SHINOBU WATANABE
YUKI IWASATO
MASAKI TAURA

NAOYA SUGANUMA
NOBUHIKO YANAI
SAIMARU BAMYUUDA

EDITOR

MASATOSHI TAKAHASHI
RINA IWAASA
ISAO MURASAWA
KENTA MATSUI

TAKUYA KODAMA

NOVEL

ISAO MIURA
LUNA

COMIC

KOTARO YAMADA



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 ブ ラ ツ 鍛 ス 治 ミ ス

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH

art by **KOTARO YAMADA** / story by **ISAO MIURA**

Original Character Designs by LUNA

VOLUME 10

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Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

LETTERING AND RETOUCH
Roland Amago
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Shanti Whitesides

ASSISTANT EDITOR
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PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
CK Russell

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Lissa Pattillo

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOL. 10

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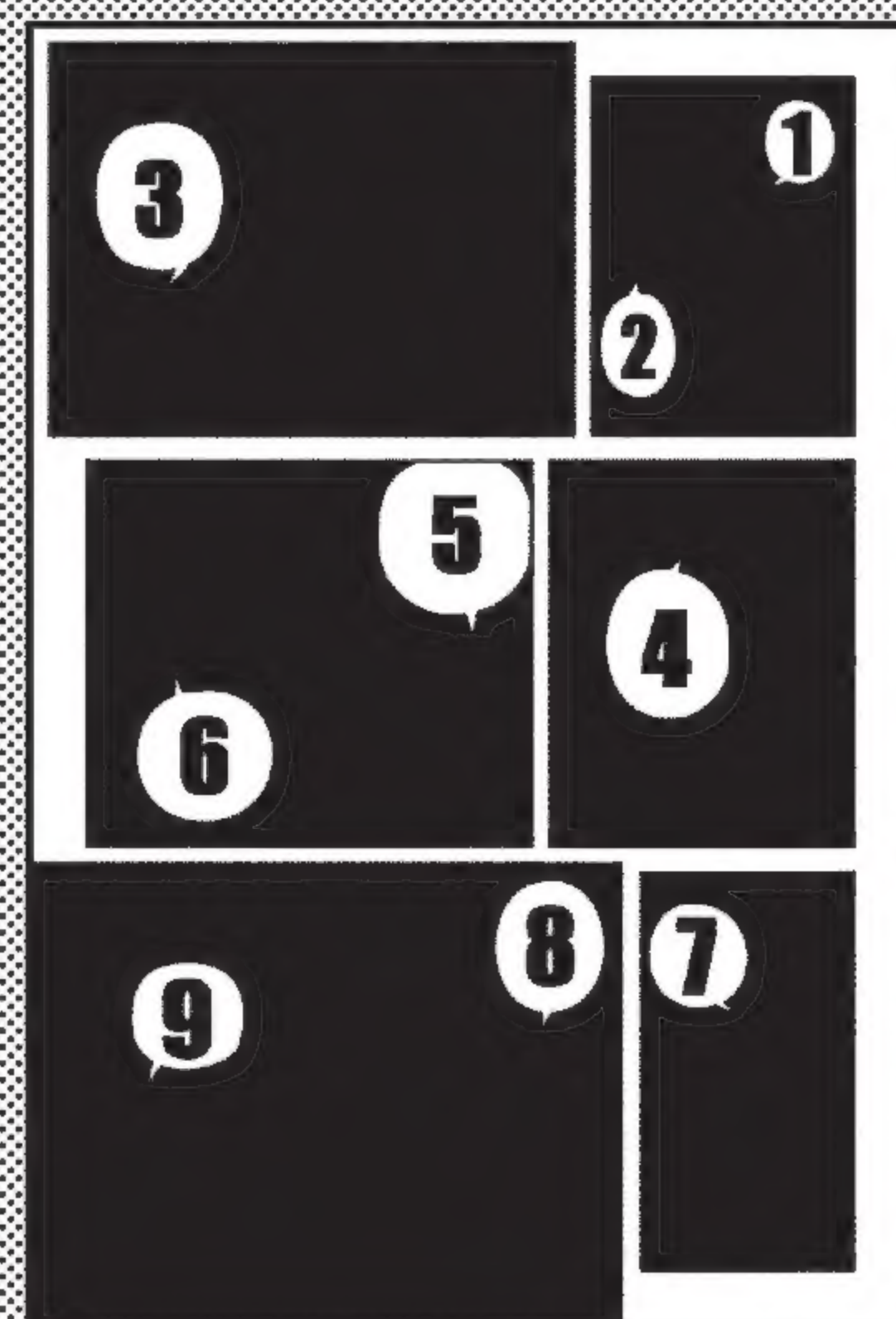
First Printing: July 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





THE LAST STAND

Once, a demon-driven war raged across the continent. Now, as the Imperial Crowd Power invades the Independent Trade City, the threat of conflict has returned. Though the City's forces make a valiant stand against the Imperial armies, the sheer number of incoming Demon Blades puts the City on the defensive. As the fight reaches a furious pitch, Siegfried and Luke clash, while Cecily faces off with Valbanill. The final battle has arrived!



OLDER TEEN (16+)

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